



*Revised Edition of*  
*The* **Monthly**  
**PARISH POST**



**Holy Week - The Most Important Week for the World**

24th to 31st March 2024



For God so loved the world that He gave  
His only begotten Son, that whoever  
believes in Him should not perish but  
have everlasting life.

John 3:16

## Passiontide - The Last Two Sundays of Lent

The final two weeks of Lent are used as an immediate preparation to focus more and more on the Passion and Death of Jesus and so accompany **him on his way to Calvary.**

### Things to be mindful of:

- ➔ This is a Holy and Sacred Time of Prayer. (It is said when the Lord builds a Church, the devil builds a chapel nearby)
- ➔ Avoid all avenues that the devil may seek to distract or use you to create disorder, confusion and conflict on these sacred days and during the Triduum. Do not seek to draw others away from God by your actions, instead draw closer to God.
- ➔ Let your Faith move you, and do not treat this day with contempt and disregard by acting inappropriately in ways that would naturally offend others who seek to pray and grow in Faith. Seek to encounter Jesus and draw others into Christ.
- ➔ Show reverence to God and respect to others by respecting the decorum of the Church. Avoid conversations, salutations, and laughter in the church.
- ➔ Be mindful that many people see this time as sacred and intend to pray; and those joining the Catholic Church are experiencing Holy Week and the Triduum for the very first. They deserve to learn what is correct and not be scandalised.
- ➔ When the Blessed Sacrament is exposed, be silent and pray.
- ➔ When Our Blessed Lord moves around the Church to the Altar of Repose on Holy Thursday, kneel in reverence and silence. Be conscious that people are trying to go into the rites of the Liturgy, please do not distract them. On Good Friday, be silent. At the Vigil, be solemn. On Easter Sunday: Rejoice!
- **Reverence to God** comes naturally to anyone who believes in God and has an active faith. This is manifested in the way one treats the things of God, things that are sacred, and how we use our body to praise God, by standing, sitting, kneeling, or raising our hands; how we pray or stay silent; all of these express our Faith.
- **Respect to others** is required for those who may be on a journey of Faith, unaware, or maybe struggling with a crisis of Faith and, as a result, may not want to be reverent to God. In this case, one can respect the House of God and what the people therein hold sacred according to our Faith Customs. Things like loud laughter, making a noise when others are trying to pray, and acting inappropriately are not advisable.

# Sunday 17th March 2024:



## Passion Sunday: The Veiling.

- In His dolorous Passion, Jesus' face and whole body were so disfigured by the blows and scourges that Our Saviour was scarcely recognisable. "I am a worm and not a man" (Psalm 22:6). Thus, the wounds Our Lord endured hid both His divinity and His humanity. **For this reason we veil the crosses in the final days of Lent - hiding our Saviour under the sad purple cloth.** The statues of the saints, too, are covered; for it is but befitting that, if the glory of the Master be eclipsed, His servants should not appear.
- **The Fifth Sunday of Lent is called "Passion Sunday"** and marks the beginning of a special sub-season called Passiontide, which extends up until Holy Saturday. During this time the Church's liturgy became more somber and a sorrowful mood is reflected in the various practices that occurred in the liturgy. The most obvious example of a more somber mood is the **veiling of statues and images.** Crosses remain covered until the end of the Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, but images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil."

### The Tenth Station Jesus is Stripped of his garments

Everything is now lost.

Even his garment is taken from him.

The intention is to shame and humiliate him.

To make him a laugh. A haha. And they won; just.

Now, all that is beautiful is covered in our Church.

We too stripped off the garments of Streatham Hill.

We bow our heads in shame. In shame.

With him.

# Holy Week Begins



## Sunday 24th March 2024:

### Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord.

- Palm Sunday is the sixth and last Sunday of Lent and marks the beginning of Holy Week. This day joins the foretelling of Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem (as the crowd welcomed Him with palm branches) and the proclamation of His Passion in the Gospel reading. Hence, the day is called "Palm Sunday of the Passion of Our Lord."
- **The Vigil Mass on Saturday (23rd) at 5.30 pm and Sunday at 9.30 am will have a simple procession into the Church starting from the Narthex.**
- **The 11 am Mass will have a solemn procession starting from the Grotto Garden of the BVM in the gardens.**
- After the Mass, take your Blessed Palms home with you and return them to the Church two weeks before Ash Wednesday in 2025, so that it can be burnt to create the ashes for Ash Wednesday.
- Palms are kept in the home as a witness to faith in Jesus Christ, the messianic king, and in his Paschal Victory. Because these are blessed, they are now sacramentals, which "are sacred signs instituted by the Church. Sacramentals should be treated with respect and never be thrown away. Blessed palms may only be burned or buried. Palms (or olive branches in absence of palms) should not be kept as amulets, or for therapeutic or magical reasons to dispel evil spirits or to prevent the damage these cause in the fields or in the homes, all of which can assume a certain superstitious guise.

## Monday 25th March 2024:

### Holy Monday

Mass at 9.30 am

### Parish Rosary said after the Mass

- This is a Day of Prayer, Fasting, Giving and Meditation during this solemn Week.
- >> **The Church is open from 7am - 7pm to offer plenty of time for private prayer.**
- >> **All Parish Administrative, Maintenance and Domestic duties are suspended until after Easter.**

## Tuesday 26th March 2024:

### Holy Tuesday

Mass at 7 am - Private

- This is a Day of Prayer, Fasting, Giving and Meditation during this solemn Week.
- >> **The Church is open from 7am - 7pm to offer plenty of time for private prayer.**
- >> **All Parish Administrative, Maintenance and Domestic duties are suspended until after Easter.**

## Wednesday 27th March 2024:

### Holy Wednesday - Spy Wednesday

Chrism Mass in Saint Georges Cathedral at 11 am

- Mass today takes place in Our Cathedral of Saint George. This is a Day of Prayer, Fasting, Giving and Meditation during this Solemn Week.
- **It is known as Spy Wednesday** because on this day, Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus's disciples, made himself into a Spy to spy on Jesus his Lord, and his fellow disciples, his friends. Matthew 26: 14-16. Judas went up to the Chief Priest and said to them: What will you give me, and I will deliver Jesus unto you? They decided he will be paid thirty pieces of silver. And from thenceforth he sought an opportunity to betray Jesus." Matthew 26 placed this event two days before Good Friday. Thus, a spy entered the midst of the disciples on Holy Wednesday, seeking to destroy Jesus.

## CHRISM MASS

✠ **At the Chrism Mass**, the Archbishop, joined by all the priests of the Archdiocese of Southwark - in the South east and west of London and Kent, gather at the Cathedral of Saint George to celebrate the Chrism Mass. This Mass manifests the unity of the priests with their bishop.

✠ At the Mass, the Archbishop blesses three oils — the oil of catechumens (*oleum catechumenorum* or *oleum sanctorum*), the oil of the infirm (*oleum infirmorum*) and holy chrism (*sacrum chrisma*) — which will be used in the administration of the sacraments throughout the diocese for the year. Chrism is made of olive oil and is scented with a sweet perfume, usually balsam.

✠ These holy oils are usually stored in special vessels known as chrismaria and kept in a cabinet known as an ambry. When the oils are distributed to a priest for him to use in his ministry they are kept in a smaller vessel with three compartments, known as an "oil stock". The oil stocks are shaped like a ring, to make the anointing easier. The "jewel" of the ring is a container with a removable lid.

✠ **In the morning of Holy Thursday**, the Priest goes to collect our portion of three oils for our Parish of Saints Simon and Jude. In the evening of Holy Thursday, at the Mass of the Lord's Supper, the Elect and Candidates for RCIA present the Holy Oils.

✠ First Person presents the oil of the Sick - used for anointing people who are ill or infirm. **He/She says:** *This Oil of the Sick has been blessed by our Archbishop yesterday at the Chrism Mass for the healing of body, mind, and soul. May the sick, who are anointed with it, experience the compassion of Christ and his saving love.*

✠ Second Person presents the oil of Catechumens - used in the Sacrament of Baptism. (And will be used for his and Josephine's Baptism at the Easter Vigil) **He/She says:** *This Oil of Catechumens has been blessed by our Archbishop yesterday at the Chrism Mass for the anointing of those preparing for Baptism. Through this anointing they are strengthened by Christ to resist the power of Satan and reject evil in all its forms, as they prepare for the saving waters of Baptism.*

✠ Third Person presents the Holy Chrism - used in the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Orders. (And will be used for her, Paul and Josephine's Confirmation at the Easter Vigil and for our young people's Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday) **He/She says:** *This holy Chrism, a mixture of olive oil and perfume, has been consecrated by our Bishop and the Priests of our Diocese yesterday at the Chrism Mass. It will be used to anoint infants after Baptism, those who are to be confirmed, Bishops and Priests at their Ordination, and altars and churches at the time of their dedication.*

# The Easter Triduum

## 3 days that changed/ changes the world

The Easter Triduum which begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday, reaching its high point in the Easter Vigil, and closes with Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday, is the summit of the Liturgical Year. It commemorates Christ's Paschal Mystery, i.e., the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

### **28th March 2024: 1 of 3**

#### **Maundy Thursday**

Mass starts at 6pm

### **29th March 2024: 2 of 3**

#### **Good Friday**

Service starts at 3pm

### **30th March 2024: 3 of 3**

#### **Easter Vigil**

Mass starts at 6pm

### **31st March 2024: 3 continues**

#### **Easter Sunday**

Mass at 9.30 am - Low Mass; 11 am - High Mass

# Holy Thursday, 28th March at 6pm



The evening Mass on Holy Thursday is referred to as The Mass of the Lord's Supper: This is where the Church commemorates:

- 1.) The institution of the Eucharist;
- 2.) The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at the Last Supper;
- 3.) The institution of the Sacred Priesthood.

## What Happens:

### Processions with the Holy Oils

- ◆ The Church is prepared for the Last Supper of Jesus
- ◆ At the Beginning of Mass, The Holy Oils are brought in procession

### Washing of the Feet

- ◆ After the homily the priest will perform the "washing of the feet" ceremony. This is a time where the priest washes the feet of 12 parishioners (drawn from different areas of our parish community) just as Jesus did with his disciples. Extra hosts are consecrated at this Mass to be used on Good Friday when no Mass will be celebrated.

### The Stripping Of the Altar

- ◆ Maundy (Holy) Thursday Mass is concluded with the ceremony of the Stripping Of The Altar. The Stripping of the altar, the removing of all ornaments, linens, and paraments is symbolic of the humiliation of Jesus at the hands of the soldiers. After the Last Supper, less than twenty-four hours remaining in the earthly life of our Lord. Events moved rapidly: prayer in Gethsemane, betrayal by Judas, arrest, mock trial, beating, crowning with thorns, spitting, mockery, the trudge to Golgotha and shameful death. As His life was stripped from Him, so we strip our altar of the signs of life to symbolise His purposeful, redemptive suffering and death "for us and for our salvation". The Church falls into Silence. The Bells are no longer rung until the Easter Vigil.



**Procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the "Altar of repose in the Parish Hall"**

◆ After we have adored Jesus in Benediction, The Priest makes a procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the "altar of repose," through the Church located in the Parish Hall where the consecrated Host is kept, away from the main altar where Mass is normally celebrated.

**Watching the Lord until Midnight in the Parish Hall**

◆ We watch with the Lord until midnight. You can stay for as long as you can manage. The Parish Hall is opened until midnight, but with some security protocol to keep everyone safe that is watching the Lord.

**The Great Silence Begins ...**

**Leave the Church silently on Thursday and Friday**



**Love Dies Love Rises.**

After the twin Gifts of Love at His Last Supper,  
The Garden's beauty soaked in pain.

Christ howled silent groans of anguish  
in fragile shame of a night's Betrayal.

Silence is silent on Good Friday.

A Cross.

God sleeps. Christ dies. Eternity watches.

Listens to Silence. Night brings Light. Christ

rises. Joy exults! Rumbling, Chirping,

Chittering, Chirring. Be Glad! Rejoice!

Sing in Joy!

**CHRIST IS RISEN!**



## Love's innocence

Utter vulnerability. Vulnerable.  
 Fragile victim.  
 Perfection of Love's innocence.  
 Peaceful face of simplicity.  
 Kind eyes infested by the lies of love.  
 Darkness:  
 An evening of truth twisters.  
 Twisted darkness of abuse.  
 Betrayal. Deceit. Hate.  
 Travesty of justice.  
 Fist punch on tender face.  
 False evidence pride in scorn.  
 Consumed by the fire of ignorance.  
 Arrogance on Moses' Chair, garment torn.  
 Rage at a Son of Man, heavenly born.  
 The mind's ascent to Truth:  
 Utter vulnerability. Vulnerable.  
 Innocent Love bowed in shame.  
 Verdict: Death