

## **MASSES & SERVICES THIS WEEK**

PLEASE NOTE ALL OF THE MASSES LISTED BELOW WILL BE CELEBRATED CHURCH, BUT WITHOUT THE PRESENCE OF A CONGREGATION.  
PLEASE JOIN IN BY FOLLOWING THE READINGS AND PRAYERS AT HOME  
AND JOINING US ON-LINE THROUGH THE PARISH WEBSITE.

### **HOLY WEEK**

#### **Saturday 4th April VIGIL MASS OF PALM SUNDAY**

17:00 Our Lady of Pity For the people of the Parish

#### **Sunday 5th April PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

08:30 Our Lady of Pity Rita Head RIP

10:30 Our Lady of Pity Intentions of Andrew Nairn

#### **Monday 6th April Monday of Holy Week**

09:00 Our Lady of Pity For the sick & their families

#### **Tuesday 7th April Tuesday of Holy Week**

09:00 Our Lady of Pity Canon Michael Hazell RIP

NO CHRISM MASS AT THE CATHEDRAL

#### **Wednesday 8th April Spy Wednesday**

09:00 Our Lady of Pity Our twin Diocese of Battambang

### **THE EASTER TRIDUUM**

#### **Thursday 9th April MAUNDY THURSDAY**

19:00 Our Lady of Pity **MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**  
An end to the Coronavirus Pandemic

#### **Friday 10th April GOOD FRIDAY**

15:00 Our Lady of Pity **SOLEMN LITURGY OF THE PASSION**

#### **Saturday 11th April HOLY SATURDAY**

20:30 Our Lady of Pity **THE GREAT VIGIL  
& FIRST MASS OF EASTER**  
Dec'd of Hackeson & Haden Family

Our Lady of Pity, 31 Station Street, Swaffham, PE37 7HP  
Watton Methodist Church, 57 High Street, Watton, IP25 6EJ  
Sacred Heart Convent, 17 Mangate Street, Swaffham, PE37 7QW



## **Our Lady of Pity Swaffham & Watton Newsletter**

Parish Priest: Canon Mark Hackeson

The Presbytery, 31 Station Street, Swaffham, PE37 7HP

Tel: **01760 721418**

**ourladyofpity@btinternet.com**

[www.ourladyofpity.org](http://www.ourladyofpity.org)

### **SUNDAY 5TH APRIL PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

### **THE GREAT WEEK**

Despite the Coronavirus Emergency and the restrictions this has placed upon the practice of our religious and spiritual lives, the week that begins today still remains '**The Great Week**', the week in which we remember, celebrate and walk the events that brought us salvation, reconciliation with God (and with each other), and the revelation and promise of eternal life.

It is the most important week in the Christian year, and whatever the circumstances it must retain that special place of reverence and observation that it normally does. In parish churches throughout the world the Easter Triduum will be celebrated as always—but not *as usual*! Most priests, like myself will be celebrating a simplified form of the liturgies alone, but with you, the people who would normally be there, very much in mind.

Normally I would be encouraging you in this Newsletter to participate in as many of the Holy Week liturgies as possible: rejoicing with the crowds who welcomed the Lord on Palm Sunday; watching as the clouds of jealousy and injustice gather around Jesus; entering the intimacy of the Upper Room where Jesus gives the great commandment of love and service and explains the significance of what is to come; watching with Him in the darkness of Gethsemane, following Him to his trial; walking the Way of the Cross and witnessing Christ's great Sacrifice; waiting in the emptiness, silence and grief of Holy Saturday; waiting for the light of His Resurrection which shatters the darkness of the tomb and the darkness of the night as a prelude to the joy of Easter Day.

It is a journey of many emotions, and a journey that has echoes in our own lives—even in the Pandemic through which we are presently living. It speaks to the frightened, the suffering, mourners and to those facing the mystery of death. It speaks words of faith, hope and love—words which transform our lives. So, despite the limitations placed upon us this year, I still invite and urge you to participate as much as possible in liturgy of Holy Week. Phil Riedlinger has been working hard to improve and ensure the streaming of our liturgy via the Parish Website where booklets to help you follow will also be available to download. I would like to thank him and Peter Young on all our behalf and look forward to celebrating my first Easter with you here in Swaffham and Watton.

***With every blessing, Fr Mark***

**STREAMED MASSES & SERVICES FROM OUR LADY OF PITY**

**[www.ourladyofpity.org](http://www.ourladyofpity.org)**

**Times of Masses & Easter Triduum on back of this Newsletter.**

**PARISH CLERGY:** Canon Mark Hackeson Parish Priest  
Rev Roger Sparks Retired Deacon

### PRAYERS FOR OUR PARISH

#### **FOR OUR SICK:**

Sr Francis, Rita & Vic Head, Kim Wright, Margaret Maxey, Catherine Hole, Theresa Axham, Norah Reeve, Catherine Oliver, Charles Burgess, Carole Pointer, Helen Philips, Edward Hodnett, Jack Izzo, Peggy Ellis, Davida MacDonald, Christine Dryden, Sheila Morris, Anna Dawson, Maureen & Eddie Doran, Gail Double, Lina Giovoni, Sr Elizabeth Rees, Dana Lavington. *May the Lord bring them comfort and healing.*

#### **FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED †**

**Frederick Scales, Canon Michael Hazell and Rita Head** who died recently, and for John George, Billy Byrne, Jean Bailey, Barbara Riedlinger, Findarr Byrne, Jack Keating, Christine Webber, Arthur Rackham, Jane Bridget Hodges, Elmo & Imelda Cadiramen. *May they rest in peace*

### **KEEPING IN TOUCH**

**Parish Website:** [www.ourladyofpity.org](http://www.ourladyofpity.org)

Please consult the Parish Website for

- the weekly Newsletter
- Live streamed Mass and other Services
- Prayer Resources and links to other useful sites
- Information on how to continue to contribute financially to our Parish

**Telephone Helpline: 01760 721418 daily 9.30-10.30am** for

- Informing Fr Mark of illness at home or in hospital & requests for the Sacraments
- Requesting help with essential shopping & medicine pick up
- To request a friendly chat with fellow parishioners

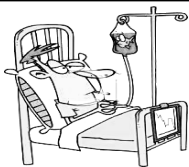
#### **NEEDED URGENTLY —MOBILE TELEPHONE!**

*Has anyone got a fully functioning mobile telephone that they no longer need? An elderly parishioner in a local care home has need of one in order to keep in touch during this period of enforced isolation. If you do, then please let Sr. Francis know.*



### GOING INTO HOSPITAL?

If you are, **PLEASE** inform the appropriate Chaplain:  
**QEH at King's Lynn** - Canon Peter Rollings 01553 772220  
**Norfolk & Norwich** - Canon David Paul 01603 624615  
**Swaffham Community Hospital**, please inform Fr. Mark.



**NEWSLETTER** Please contact Glenda Boulter on 01328 838736 or [gboulter@btinternet.com](mailto:gboulter@btinternet.com) by **Wednesday midday** for the coming week. *Thank you.*

## **THE WORD OF GOD Matthew 26:14 – 27:66**

27:45 From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. 46 And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice: 'Eli, eli, lama sabachtani?' that is: 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' 47 When some of those who stood there heard this, they said: 'The man is calling on Elijah,' 48 and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink. 49 'Wait!' said the rest of them, 'and see if Elijah will come to save him.' 50 But Jesus, again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit. 51 At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; 52 the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, 53 and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to a number of people. 54 Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said, 'In truth this was a son of God.' 55 And many women were there, watching from a distance, the same women who had followed Jesus from Galilee and looked after him. 56 Among them were Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

*Other readings: Isaiah 50:4-7 Psalm 21 (22) Philippians 2:6-11*

### **REFLECTION**

These paragraphs are the climax of the story of the Passion of Christ according to Matthew, which is solemnly read as we begin Holy Week. This evangelist follows Mark in recording the opening words of the psalm as Jesus' last words, and thus shows how deep is the anguish of Jesus, the good man abused by evil-doers. The words of Jesus are misunderstood by the bystanders, who attempt to prolong his life by offering him vinegar. Matthew tells us that at his death Jesus freely gives up his spirit.

The evangelist, who has already spoken of darkness over the whole earth, narrates apocalyptic happenings at the death of Jesus. But the death of the Son of God also heralds new life, not only for Jesus, but also for the saints who sleep in death. Furthermore, Matthew has those guarding Jesus join the centurion in a chorus of awe-struck faith at the death of Jesus. The evangelist implies that Jesus brings new life both to Jewish saints and to Gentile soldiers, in other words to all. The faithful women from Galilee, who have served Jesus throughout his ministry, stand by as witnesses to these awesome events.

*What are the striking features of the story of the passion as told by Matthew?*

*Take time this week to read the whole of Matthew's account of the death of Christ.*

*We pray that our Holy Week will prepare us for the gift of new life at Easter.*

*We join Christians throughout the world in living these holy days to the full.*

***Reflections on the Sunday Gospels, written by Fr. Adrian Graffy***

