

**24 March 2024**  
**PALM SUNDAY OF THE**  
**PASSION OF THE LORD**



**Entrance Antiphon**

Six days before the Passover,  
when the Lord came into the  
city of Jerusalem, the  
children ran to meet him;  
in their hands they carried  
palm branches and with a  
loud voice cried out:

\* Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed are you, who have  
come in your abundant  
mercy! O gates, lift high your  
heads; grow higher, ancient  
doors. Let him enter, the king  
of glory! Who is this king of  
glory? He, the Lord of hosts,  
he is the king of glory.

\* Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed are you, who have  
come in your abundant  
mercy!

**First Reading** from the  
prophet Isaiah 50: 4-7

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.2

**Response:** My God, my God,  
why have you abandoned me?

**Second Reading** from the  
letter of St Paul to the  
Philippians 2: 6-11

**Gospel Acclamation**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus  
Christ, king of endless glory!  
Christ became obedient for  
us even to death dying on  
the cross. Therefore God  
raised him on high and gave  
him a name above all other  
names. Praise to you, Lord  
Jesus Christ, king of endless  
glory!

**Holy Gospel** according to  
Mark 15:1-39

*We acknowledge and respect the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand,  
the elders, past and present and all the Dharawal people. May we too be good stewards of this land.*



## To the people of the Church in Australia, for the Holy Land Collection 2024

For 800 years, the Franciscan Friars have shared the difficult lives of Christians in the countries that make up the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land: Israel and Palestine, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Rhodes and Cyprus. The people of these countries face their own difficulties, but particularly Christians due to their minority status. Among them, the friars have never ceased offering their pastoral care.

Two years ago it was the Pandemic that was causing havoc for the people in the Holy Land (as it was in the rest of the world) but now there is a new and more dangerous threat through the ongoing conflict which may last for quite some time. Just when pilgrims were starting to return, the Sacred Places of our Christian Faith are once again closed to pilgrims. Pilgrims are vital because they generate income that allows the Friars and the local Church to fulfil their mission of caring for the Holy Places (which also give work to the local people), as well as running parishes, schools and caring for orphans, refugees, the homeless, and more.

Brothers and sisters, as is the case in many parts of the world, the financial situation in the Holy Land continues to be extremely challenging. In late 2021, Fr Francesco Patton ofm, the Franciscan leader of the Holy Land Custody wrote the following, which I believe is still relevant for us. I have replaced the word 'pandemic' with 'war':

"We have not closed the sanctuaries but tried to enhance them by intensifying our invocations in the name of all humanity. We have made them accessible by broadcasting the celebrations to keep alive the bond with the faithful and pilgrims. We have not stopped caring for our parishes with their faithful, whether they are Arabic, Hebrew or Greek speaking locals, migrant workers or refugees. The liturgies, Sacraments and Catechesis, albeit with many restrictions, have continued to nourish the lives of our people. The care of the sick and accompaniment of the dying have continued so as not to abandon them in the face of the war( pandemic).

Our charitable commitments have continued to serve a population tried not only by the pandemic, but also by the disasters of war, the cynical and cruel 'Laws of the Market', the absence of social assistance, and by having to resort to begging to satisfy everyday needs or send their children to school. We have not closed schools but continued to take care of the education of infants, children, and young people. But all this, of course, has a cost, a large part of which is covered by the Good Friday Collection and the generosity of the faithful from all over the world. In light of the war's ( pandemic's) ongoing effects, we friars of the Holy Land, even more than in past years, make ourselves beggars and appeal to the generosity of your hearts." (Patton, 2021)

Brothers and sisters, as is always the case, the Good Friday Holy Land Collection is extremely important, and a mission that we all can assist with. The hope is that our Australian parishioners, Parish Priests and Bishops will again be as generous as they have always been. Our donation is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of people who are keeping alive the Christian presence in the land of Jesus, often in the face of great difficulty in recent years. On their behalf, I humbly and wholeheartedly thank you all.

Friar Bernie Thomas ofm

Commissary of the Holy Land (Australia)

<http://holylandfranciscansaustralia.org/>

## Worship: Mass and Devotions

Sunday Mass	Weekday Mass	Devotions
Saturday Vigil: 6pm	Mon, Tues, Wed Mass at 9am	Adoration with the Rosary: Saturday 9.30am
Sunday: 9.30 am and 5pm	Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm	Divine Mercy Devotion: Third Sunday at 3pm
Filipino Mass: Third Sunday at 11.15am	Fri and Sat Mass at 9am	Alliance of the 2 Hearts Mass and Devotion: First Friday of each month from 7.30pm
Samoan Mass: First Sunday of even months at 12 noon	Healing Mass on the first Saturday of each month at 9am	<b>Stations of the Cross; Friday 7pm during Lent</b>
Maori Mass: First Sunday at 2pm		Reconciliation: Saturday 11 am—12

### Contact us

Office Hours: **Tuesday-Friday 9.30am-12.30pm**

Phone: **9603 7373 / 0434 705 176**

Email: **varroville@dow.org.au**

Website: **varroville.dow.org.au**

Parish Priest:  
**Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD**

Parish Associate:  
**Sr “Jill” Girlie Sudario, CM**

## Meetings and Gatherings

**Friendship Group** meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 9am.

**Readers Ministry Meeting** meets on the last Tuesday of every 2 months at 7.30pm via zoom. (30 April)

**Fiesta Committee Meeting** Save the date for our first planning meeting for 2024 on Tuesday 9 April at 7.30pm.

**Holy Family Fellowship** meets on the 4th Saturday at 7pm.

**Book Club** meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10am.

**Fundraising Team** meeting is on Wednesday 24 April at 7.30pm.

**Faith Circles** meets every Monday via zoom at 2pm & 7.30pm.

**Bible Reflection** group meets every Monday at 10am.

**Children’s Choir** will meet on Friday 19 April at 7.30pm.

**Childrens Ministry Gathering** will meet on the 4th Sunday from 3– 5 pm.

**Youth Ministry** is on fire for faith, friendship and specially for God! All 13-17 years old are invited to join every fortnight on the 2nd & 4th Friday of every month at 6:30 pm.

## Prayer intentions

**For the sick and homebound:** Una Champion, Myka Mangos, Kevin Cloran, Karen Browne, Amanda and John Meredith, Reg Gardner, Sr Heather Burke, Marie and Barry Atkins, Carol and Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, Joe Spinnato, Susan Mella, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, , Doris Wahhib, John Kajdrys, Pat Stewart.  
*May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain and affliction.*

**For our recently dearly departed:** Francisco Carmona, Lola Moors, Rosario David, Rodney Smith,

**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Fr Tadgh Tierney ocd, Veni Menezes,  
*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.*



## EASTER SERVICES



**7.30pm Holy Thursday:** Mass of the Last Supper

**10am Good Friday:** Stations of the Cross

**3pm Good Friday:** The Passion of the Lord

**7pm Easter Vigil** on Saturday

**9.30am and 5pm Mass** on Easter Sunday

**Sunday 7 April: Divine Mercy Sunday**

Our Rosters for Easter will be sent out by email

## Our Parish Notices:

**Altar Server Training** will be held on 4 Saturdays during April at 4pm. For anyone wishing to become an Altar Server and for those already serving, it is a refresher. For more info call the parish office.

**Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation;** The dates for these Sacraments are available on our parish website and registrations are being accepted via the Parish office.

**Fundraising News:** We are amazed at the community response our cake stall received last weekend. So many donations, thank you all very much. We have raised \$1385.50. That's a lot of cakes..... Thank you again.



## Community Notices

### Instructions for Lenten Penance and the Paschal Precept

**Ash Wednesday and Good Friday** are days of abstinence from meat for everyone over 14 years of age, as well as days of fast for those bound to fast.

All who are 14 years or older are obliged to abstain from meat.

All who are 18 to 59 are obliged to fast (Canon 1252).

Anyone who is sick or infirm is not obliged by these laws.

**Paschal Precept:** Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This is to be done between Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday unless for a good reason it is done at another time during the year.

All the faithful are obliged to confess their grave sins at least once a year.

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### Women Alive Retreat – A Spiritual Retreat for Women

Saturday 13 April 2024, 9:30am-3:30pm; Venue: St John's Parish Hall, 31 Cordeaux Street, Campbelltown; Please confirm your intention to attend the retreat by messaging Maria on 0433 905 968.

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### 'Footsteps of St Mary MacKillop Pilgrimage' 10 – 20 October

**2024** The itinerary for the 'Footsteps of St Mary MacKillop' pilgrimage has been released. Set out on a true Australian Pilgrimage through the life and times of Mary MacKillop, as we rekindle the story, landscape, and spirit of our nation's first

saint. Please share this news with family, friends, and fellow parishioners. As it is expected that this pilgrimage will 'sell out', everyone wanting to attend is encouraged to submit your deposit as soon as possible. It is the hope of Fr David Catterall (Parish Priest of St Mary MacKillop Parish, Oran Park) to be chaplain on the October 2024 departure. More info, including the costs and itinerary, can be found at

[www.harvestjourneys.com/tour/footsteps-of-st-mary-mackillop](http://www.harvestjourneys.com/tour/footsteps-of-st-mary-mackillop)

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**Emmaus Silent Retreat** Friday 19th April - Sunday 21st April, Varroville: Embark on the sacred journey of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, where the victorious love of God is revealed through the abiding presence of Jesus.

Be renewed in spending time alone with the Lord, and watch as He slowly sets your heart ablaze. This retreat is run by the MGL Sisters and is a retreat for both men and women: [trybooking.com/CNSXX](http://trybooking.com/CNSXX)

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**Palestinian Christians in Australia** We Palestinian Christians are often referred to as the "Living Stones", a term made popular over centuries referring to the first Christians from the Holy Land. Our ancestors were there when the spirit fell on them in Jerusalem during Pentecost; they were the first to venerate the Holy Places, the actual stones where Jesus walked and suffered.

Our community are facing a big obstacle in settling refugees from Palestine in Australia especially with the accommodation expenses. We at Palestinian Christians in Australia managed to get 7 families a temporary rented apartments with basic needs but we still have many Christian families on the waiting list. If all the families who got visas end up arriving we will need a large amount of funds to host them in apartments for at least 3 or six months, till they have time to get settled and find work. We initiated an accommodation drive to try and raise some funds for that purpose. If you are able to help please go to the website for more information. The link to the website is: <https://palestinianchristians.org.au/accommodation-drive/>

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### An invitation to join electronic parish planned giving from your Parish Finance Council

An electronic regular gift provides many benefits. You will find it a secure, convenient and efficient way to regularly support your parish, while also reducing our administration costs. It will also help us to confidently forecast and plan, as we know that we can rely on your support. You can increase, decrease, discontinue or restart your monthly gift at any time. Please visit <https://www.dow.org.au/giving2/parishgiving/> to learn of the four simple ways you can support our parish electronically.

### Go Deeper in your Faith with popular & FREE Catholic Podcasts

#### • Bible in a Year

Ascension Press will again run the Catholic Bible in a Year Podcast featuring Fr Mike Schmitz and Jeff Cavins in 2024. It remains one of the world's leading podcasts with over 400 million downloads. While a new podcast is released daily, you can do it at your own pace signing up at [www.ascensionpress.com/biy](http://www.ascensionpress.com/biy) and it's not too late to catch up or simply work through at your own pace.



## Holy Gospel according to Mark 15:1-39

*The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.*

First thing in the morning, the chief priests together with the elders and the scribes, in short the whole Sanhedrin, had their plan ready. They had Jesus bound and took him away and handed him over to Pilate.

Pilate questioned him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' 'It is you who say it' he answered. And the chief priests brought many accusations against him. Pilate questioned him again, 'Have you no reply at all? See how many accusations they are bringing against you!' But to Pilate's amazement, Jesus made no further reply.

At festival time Pilate used to release a prisoner for them, anyone they asked for. Now a man called Barabbas was then in prison with the rioters who had committed murder during the uprising. When the crowd went up and began to ask Pilate the customary favour, Pilate answered them, 'Do you want me to release for you the king of the Jews?' For he realised it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over. The chief priests, however, had incited the crowd to demand that he should release Barabbas for them instead. The Pilate spoke again. 'But in that case,' he said to them 'what am I to do with the man you call king of the Jews?' They shouted back, 'Crucify him!' 'Why?' Pilate asked them 'What harm has he done?' But they shouted all the louder, 'Crucify him!' So Pilate, anxious to placate the crowd, released Barabbas for them and, having ordered Jesus to be scourged, handed him over to be crucified.



The soldiers led him away to the inner part of the palace, that is, the Praetorium, and called the whole cohort together. They dressed him in purple, twisted some thorns into a crown and put it on him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed and spat on him; and they went down on their knees to do him homage. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the purple and dressed him in his own clothes.

They led him out to crucify him. They enlisted a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means the place of the skull.

They offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he refused it. Then they crucified him, and shared out his clothing, casting lots to decide what each should get. It was the third hour when they crucified him. The inscription giving the charge against him read: 'The King of the Jews.' And they crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said, 'Aha! So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself: come down from the cross!' The chief priests and the scribes mocked him among themselves in the same way. 'He saved others,' they said 'he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the king of Israel, come down from the cross now, for us to see it and believe.' Even those who were crucified with him taunted him.

When the sixth hour came there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood by heard this they said, 'Listen, he is calling on Elijah'. Someone ran and soaked a sponge in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink saying, 'Wait and see if Elijah will come to take him down.' But Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

And the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The centurion, who was standing in front of him, had seen how he had died, and he said, 'In truth this man was a son of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

### REFLECTION BY ST PAUL VI 11 April 1976

Holy Week! We want to honour your religious sense, your taste for the beauty of spiritual things, your understanding of the poem of the liturgy by exhorting you to consider these days of Holy Week as days to be discovered that are always new, always exceptional, always worthy of the utmost interest. The supreme vision of the world, of our life, of pain, of evil, of our final destiny passes before our gaze, while the drama of redemption, with the cruel Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and with his death and with his resurrection, exerts an incomparable fascination on the human spirit and on the entire Church, while the suggestion of ineffable rites attracts and moves us, if we just pay humble and intelligent attention to them.

Christ is present. We cannot be absent. It's not enough to give you a fleeting thought. It is not even enough to attend the celebratory rites as spectators. Now more than ever the liturgy demands our personal and community participation. Let us allow ourselves to be invaded by the Spirit that emanates from the celebration of these mysteries, and which attracts us all, shocks us and renews us. This is the time.

And let the impetus of the problems, evoked to act on our consciences, erupt; first with arrogance to re-establish true inner peace; then to tune in us the exact sensitivity of the inevitable questions of our existence, first among these the clarity on the religious ideas of our time, then the secret of pain, the value to be attributed to contemporary culture, the pressing duties for justice and for the social order (See AAS 48 (1956) 724), etc.; and finally our personal decision to carry our cross, that is, to duty, to love, to forgiveness, to sacrifice; yes, with Christ, for Christ. This is Christ's hour and it is our hour.

Let us not miss the appointment of salvation. We will meet with Mary, given to us as a mother by her dying son.