

PARISH of ST MICHAEL

PALM SUNDAY 2024

Pastor's Column : Palm Sunday

This Sunday is also called the Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. It is so named, because one of the synoptic Gospel's telling of Jesus' passion is read. Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem is the first Gospel read today. Jesus is being welcomed into Jerusalem as the King-Messiah.

Why does he ride on a colt, a donkey? Matthew tells us that this is a fulfilment of Zechariah's prophecy. Mark has a different emphasis. He notes that this colt has never been ridden before. If you know anything about donkeys, apart from being notoriously stubborn, they will buck you off, if not tamed. Mark is telling us that Jesus can befriend wild animals, as he was at home with the wild beasts, in the wilderness when tempted, as he could also subdue storms. Jesus is Lord of Creation and is also the new Adam, who in Eden was at home with creation and its creatures.

Mark's highlighting of leafy branches is significant. For some, the palm was a symbol of sedition. In Jerusalem some Roman coins, in particular those with Caesar's head, were over-stamped with a palm, as a gesture of rebellion. For others, palm waving was a traditional way of welcoming royalty.

In the Passion reading of Mark there are some elements that can be highlighted. In Gethsemane, a name meaning "olive press" he prays, "abba, Father". Much is made of this palindrome (a word spelt same forward and backwards), often rendered, "Dad or daddy". In truth it was just the common Aramaic word for "Father".

Mark emphasises a favourite theme of his, "watch", "watch and pray." It was common after Passover for Jews to keep vigil in prayer, which could be quite challenging after drinking the prescribed 4 cups of red wine of the Passover meal!

On Jesus' arrest, Mark makes reference to a young man, in a loin cloth who runs off naked. Who is this young man? One legend is that it was John, the beloved, who, in his retreat collides with Mary and Mary of Magdala. They cloak him and they turn him around, eventually he ends up with them at the cross!

Others see its symbolism, as a disciple running away from his baptismal commitment (loin cloth sometimes worn at that ceremony). Another interpretation is that it was Mark, writing in a cameo appearance (like Peter Jackson at Brie, in the "Lord of the Rings").

In the trial of Jesus, the main accusation against Jesus is blasphemy. When challenged Jesus replies, "I am". Does this hint at the Tetragrammaton, "I am who I am!" When Jesus says he will sit on God's throne and coming on clouds, Jesus explicitly identifies himself with God. Jesus is thus condemned to death.

We need to understand that Roman crucifixion was designed for maximum humiliation of the victim. The victim is to be a vivid example of what happens, if you are seditious. The scourging, often a shredding, bloodied the victim for maximum visual impact, then crucified naked and exposed for maximum humiliation. Ray Downing, who extricated the 3D image of Jesus from the Shroud of Turin, (His burial cloth), described in tears what he saw as a human train-wreck.

St Paul uses the Greek word, "Kenosis", God emptying himself of his Godhead, to fully share our humanity. Mark's Spartan account of Jesus' passion and death can only leave us stunned at the extent and cost of our salvation, but also the urgency and gravity and necessity of our response.

Fr Tony Dunn

24th March 2024

Parish of St Michael, Remuera
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Parish Office
Fiona Twomey / Fran Carne

Baptism Preparation:
Pauline loelu

RCIA:
Peter Hay-MacKenzie

Sacramental Programme:
Pauline loelu

Music Co-ordinator:
James loelu

Safeguarding Co-ordinator:
Fiona Twomey

REMUEA Parish

Eucharist:
Sunday 8am, 10am, 5pm

Weekday Mass:
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri 7am & 12noon
Sat 8am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:
After Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri
7am Mass and 4th Friday from 7-8pm

Anointing of the Sick:
11.30am First Friday of the Month

Reconciliation / Confession:
Saturday 8:30am, Sunday 4.30pm
or by appointment

PARNELL Parish
Saturday 9am, 5pm (Vigil)
Sunday 7am, 9.30am

READINGS THIS SUNDAY
1. Isaiah 50:4-7
2. Philippians 2:6-11

PRAYER INTENTIONS BOX

We invite you to take advantage of the drop box in the foyer for your Prayer Intentions.

These will be prayed for on that day or the day following by one of our Prayer Groups.

Paper is provided. You can place your written intentions in the labelled drop box in the church foyer at any time.

We encourage you to make the most of this opportunity.

The Religious Education Committee

PARISH HOLY HOUR

St Michael's next Holy Hour with
Adoration, Benediction & communal prayer
is on
Friday 22 March at 7.00pm.

*"Seek the Lord & His strength;
seek His presence continually"*

Psalm 105:4"



IT'S YOUR FUNERAL! The parish can help you plan your funeral liturgy. A friendly, experienced and confidential service is promised. Those interested should contact the parish office for a copy of the parish's planning checklist.

TRANSPORT TO MASS Do you or someone you know need a lift to Mass on a Sunday? Please notify the parish office with name, contact number and address for pickup and return.

Palm Sunday [Kids Korner](#) [Parent Ponderings](#)

CONCERT with FR CHRIS SKINNER SM Mary MacKillip Chapel, Sunday 7 April at 2pm, Suggested koha \$10.

DIVINE MERCY FEAST Sunday 7 April 5:30pm at St Benedict's Parish, 1 St Benedict's Street, Eden Terrace. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Blessing of Images, Benediction, Holy Mass, Veneration of St Faustina's relic. You are warmly invited to attend this Feast Day Celebration. Bring your Divine Mercy images & artefacts to be blessed. Jesus told St Faustina "My Heart rejoices on this Feast Day". Free Parking at Wilson carpark & street parking is also free on Sunday.



FULFILLED: THE PROMISE OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE looks deeply at the 'ache' of human longing and opens the eyes of our hearts to the hope of infinite bliss in Christ. Dates: Sat 13 and Sun 14 April, 8am -6pm, Mission Bay, Auckland. All adults 20+ are welcome. For more information and to register please visit: theologyofthebody.nz

JOIN TE KUPENGA CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE for its new webinar series. A Taste of Theology from April-December 2024 every first Tuesday of the month. These are one-hour sessions with topics on Philosophy, Canon Law, Spirituality, Scripture, Moral Theology, etc. Four sessions revisit the documents of Vatican II. Cost of \$60 one-off. For more information and to register, go to www.tekupenga.ac.nz/tasteoftheology

UNIVERSITY MINISTRY COORDINATOR – CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND Are you a self-motivated relationship-builder who can be the driving force behind a new project? We're looking for someone who answers "Yes!" to become our full-time University Ministry Coordinator. You'll be part of a tight-knit team implementing a bold new strategy for ministry to young people in the Diocese of Auckland. To learn more, please visit: www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/

NORTHLAND REGION CORRECTIONS FACILITY (NGAWHA) – CATHOLIC PRISON CHAPLAINCY
We are seeking to employ a suitably qualified person to work as a member of Tira Tūhāhā Prison Chaplaincy Aotearoa Chaplaincy Team, which delivers Ecumenical Chaplaincy services to men in prison at the Northland Region Corrections Facility. The position is a permanent part-time position of 20 hours per week – days to be determined but with the expectation of some Sundays per month for Sunday Services. To view the full advert and the position description please go to our website www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz under Diocesan Services and Staff Vacancies. Applications close 5 April 2024.

VACANCY: DIRECTOR, NATIONAL LITURGY OFFICE The NZ Catholic Bishops are seeking applications for the role of Director of the National Liturgy Office. This important role promotes sound liturgical practice, supports the liturgical aspects of the work of national agencies and provides resources for parishes & schools in Aotearoa(cont'd) **for the complete role description**, email NZCBC Executive Director, Damian Dempsey via secretariat@nzcbc.org.nz. Closes Thursday 28th March.

We remember those who have recently died:

Marc Espinosa, Eleanor Duff, Maimie Nizich

We remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Hilda Marguerite Wooler, Bernard Twomey, Pauline Unkovich

Please pray for those who are in need of our prayers, especially:

Peter Kelly, Elizabeth Kidd, Carrie Canapi, Marsha Tan, Annie Chang, Margaret Robins, Isabel Morais, Phil Bawden, Francis Morais, Eugenie Laracy, Jan Flaszynski, Jan Benedict Ilo, Elisa Sipin, Rosalina Salivio, Teresa Gao, Mary O'Sullivan, Russell Watt, Hendrika Woods and Joshua Woods, Merle Fenwick, Monty Leach, Father Justin Taylor, Stephen Berecz, Sean Lee, Dr Tony Hardy, Beverley Thomas, Peter Connolly, Graeme Matthews, Ernie Cavanagh

Palm Sunday
24th March 2024

Easter Sunday
31st March 2024

The full Holy Week Timetable is available on the Ministries noticeboard in the Church Porch

Ministers of Holy Communion

Sun 8am	Christine Alejo(P), Frances Hay-MacKenzie(G)	Dn Mark Rivalland(P), Deepak Albert, Krystal
Sun 10am	Stephenie Wong(P), Jeremy Anthony, Christopher Setiobudi, Anthony Segedin(G)	Turner, Josephine Hazel(G)
Sun 5pm	Brenda Brightwell(P), Claire Stirrat, Robert Sheehan(G)	Robert Salivio(P), Jonathan Spencer, Anthony Segedin, Stephenie Wong(G)
		Nerissa Reyes(P), Rhodora Faigao, Robert Sheehan(G)

Proclaimers of the Word

	1. Isaiah 50:4-7	2. Philippians 2:6-11	1. Acts 10:34, 37-43	2. Colossians 3:1-4
Sun 8am	Claire Stewart, Peter Hay-MacKenzie (PoF)		John Shaw, TBC (PoF)	
Sun 10am	John Trenwith, Cara Fonseca-Ensor (PoF)		Niki Smith, Jane Gordon (PoF)	
Sun 5pm	John Curtin, Stephanie Sheehan (PoF)		Rebecca Faigao, John Curtin (PoF)	

Collectors

Sun 8am	Mike Molloy	Tom Piggan Yvonne McMillan
Sun 10am	Cordtz Family	David Gray, Paul Chen

Laptop Operators

Sun 8am	Mike Molloy	Surajith Fernando
Sun 10am	Ezra Balderas	Zander Ilo-Cabiling
Sun 5pm	James Faigao	John Britto

Altar Servers

Sun 8am	Hans Jayamanne, Miguel Chu, Michaela Chu	Holly Spora, Miguel Chu, Michaela Chu
Sun 10am	Aidan Cruz, Ellery Balderas, Sebastian Lucas Yan	Patrick, Simon, Lachie Tighe-Umbers, Zayne Ilo-Cabiling
Sun 5pm	Kyla & Raine Faigao, Josiah Loming	Kyla & Raine Faigao, Vincenzo Santhara

Children's Liturgy

Sun 10am	No Children's Liturgy this Sunday	To be confirmed
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Musicians / Cantors

Sun 8am	James Ioelu	Matthew Harris, Anna Dolan
Sun 10am	Alleluia Choir	Auckland Catholic Singers
Sun 5pm	Neil Moraes, Antonia Brightwell	Nathaniel Hood, Antonia Brightwell

Sign of the Cross (Te Reo)

Until further notice, we are introducing the Sign of the Cross and Response to the Prayer of the Faithful in Te Reo Maori, see the words to the right.

Ki te Ingoa,
o te Matua,
o te Tamaite,
o te Wairua Tapu.
Amene

Response to the Prayer of the Faithful in Te Reo

O Lord, Listen to us
E te Ariki, Whakarongo mai ra ki a matou

St Michael's Mission

We the Eucharistic community of St Michael's parish, by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, are called to witness to the living Jesus

Remuera parishioners are welcome to attend Mass at Parnell

Saturday 9am, 5pm (Vigil) | Sunday 7am, 9.30am

EASTER SUNDAY SAUSAGE SIZZLE AND EASTER EGG HUNT following 10am celebration mass. Please have your children decorate a hard-boiled egg with their name on it, please place them in the basket on the table in our church foyer before Easter Sunday Mass. Fun family games on The Kings Lawn with an Easter Egg Hunt and Sausage Sizzle.



EASTER TREATS FOR MONTE CECILIA Easter is coming and we need to ensure all the children of the Monte Cecilia Community will receive some yummy Easter treats. We are collecting chocolate / marshmallow Eggs / confectionary for the MCT from this week. Please bring them along to the Church and place them in the basket for collection or if easier in the School or Parish Office. Easter books and toys are also very welcome. The contributions will be cleared regularly. Should you have any queries re Easter donations, please contact Louise Porter 021 748 834.

WANTED : VOLUNTEERS We have a plan to smarten up the parish centre (crypt). The first step will be a cleaning working bee on a Saturday during the school holidays (13 to 20 April). All equipment and materials will be supplied. Work will be supervised by an experienced person. If you want to help, please complete the form in the porch and leave it in the drop box. You will be contacted about the start date. Thank you.

ST MICHAEL'S FOODBANK Thank you for your generous donations to the Monte Cecilia Housing Trust. Did you know they support two and a half thousand individuals of which 1700 are children? The need is great, and we want these families to have as much support as we can give them. Please place all non-perishable foodstuffs, personal and laundry items in the donation basket in the church porch at the front entrance of the church. They will be greatly appreciated. Thank you. Any special donations or inquiries contact Louise 021 748 834.



HOME VISITS Do you know of a parishioner who would welcome a visit by one of our ministers? Perhaps a family member or close friend who is currently unable to get to Mass for health, age or disability reasons? Someone who would love to resume the regular reception of Holy Communion? If so, please give their contact details to Fr. Tony or to Fiona in the parish office.

ST MICHAEL'S ROSARY GROUP meets weekly on **Tuesday from 12.30-1pm** (after 12noon Mass) in front of the statue of Our Lady to pray the Rosary and the Divine Mercy chaplet. All welcome. Contact Vimla Costelloe 027 579 9499 or Anne Cotton 021 644 692.

ST MICHAEL'S CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP – All welcome Wednesdays at 7.30pm St Michael's Church Crypt. Sr Alice Hardiman smsm 021 1435 475 or Annabella Hosking 022 622 6685.

LEGION of MARY meets weekly on Sundays from 9-10am in the Parish House. All welcome to attend. Contact Carole Kenealy on 524 8422 or 021 152 1724 or carole.kenealy@gmail.com

THE LEGION of MARY has a **Pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima** for circulation to Parish homes. If you wish to welcome Our Lady into your home, contact Carole Kenealy on 524 8422 or 021 152 1724 or Anne Cotton on 520 5335 or 021 644 692.

CELEBRATING OUR PARISHIONERS Let us celebrate the achievement and significant events of our parishioners. Please email the parish office office@remueracatholic.org.nz

STATIONS OF THE CROSS Come and spend time reflecting and visiting the Stations of the Cross at St Michael's. 6pm on Fridays during Lent. Everyone is welcome. Come and spend some time with us on Friday evenings with Jesus.

[Monte Cecilia Panui Newsletter - click to read the latest issue](#)

[CDA Connect – click to read the latest issue](#) A roundup of happenings in the diocese and what's coming up.

[NZ Catholic – click to read the latest issue](#) Price \$4 (papers box please). Some headlines for this issue: Dunedin diocese eyes self-insurance as premiums soar; Holy Cross welcomes six new seminarians; Pilgrimage endures despite Holy Land turmoil.

YOUTH KICK-OFF EVENT on SATURDAY 23 March at 6:30pm at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish Hall, 19 Banff Ave. Epsom, with food, games and more. All youth in years 7-10 are welcome. This is a great way to have fun, catch up with old friends and make new ones as well as to grow in faith, guided by great leaders who live what they believe! [Register here](#)

ARCHBISHOP NOVATUS RUGAMBWA, the Apostolic Nuncio to Aotearoa New Zealand, has left for Rome as he continues his recovery from a stroke. Bishop of Auckland Stephen Lowe, the President of the NZ Catholic Bishops Conference, asks Catholics to keep Archbishop Rugambwa in their prayers. He suffered a stroke last 27 October and has been recovering and undergoing rehabilitation in Wellington. "It is with much sadness that we farewell Archbishop Novatus," says Bishop Lowe. "The bishops acknowledge our deep gratitude for his services to the Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and the Pacific. We pray for his safe travels to Rome, and we invoke the prayers of Our Lady Assumed into Heaven, our New Zealand patroness, for his healing and continued wellbeing." **Update 18 March 9am:** Archbishop Novatus has arrived in Rome after a smooth journey

[Explaining parts of the Mass, an excerpt from YOUCAT \(Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church\)](#)

How often must a Catholic Christian participate in the celebration of the Eucharist?

A Catholic Christian is obliged to attend Holy Mass on all Sundays and holy days of obligation. Anyone who is really seeking Jesus' friendship responds as often as possible to Jesus' personal invitation to the feast.

Actually, for a genuine Christian, "Sunday duty" is just as inappropriate as "kiss duty" would be for someone truly in love. No one can have a living relationship with Christ without going to the place where he is waiting for us. Therefore, from ancient times the celebration of Mass has been the "heart of Sunday" and the most important appointment in the week.