

HOLY SATURDAY

The Church waits today at the Lord's tomb, meditating on his passion and death. She refrains from all ceremony until nightfall. During the Vigil Service sorrow and mourning give way to joy and celebration.

EASTER VIGIL

The Climax of the Christian year. The Great Vigil of Easter is the most joyous and beautiful liturgy of the Church Year. This most ancient of Holy Days is rich in symbolism, saturated with the word of God, and is, in fact, the principal celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord. It bridges the time between Lent and Easter, Passion and Resurrection, great sorrow and resounding joy. The Vigil allows us, like Mary Magdalene, to visit the tomb only to find it empty, the Light of the world having risen from the dead.

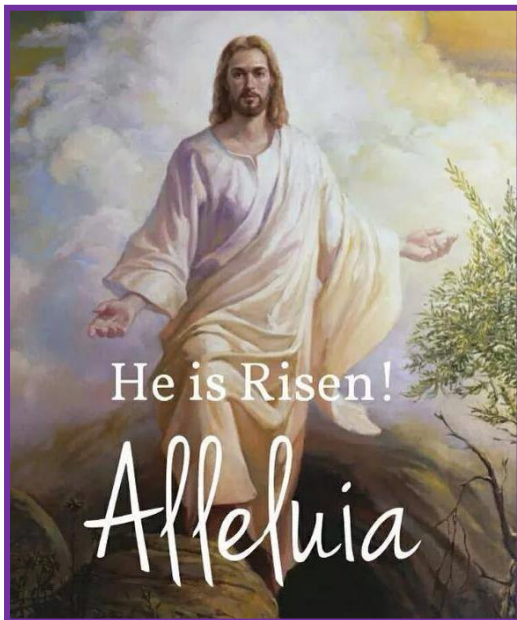
A fire is lit and blessed, the Easter Candle is lit from this fire, it symbolizes Christ the light of the World and it dispels the darkness of the night. The Pascal Candle provides the light for the Easter proclamation which recalls the grandeur of Jesus rising on this holy night in the Old Testament, foreshadowing His wonders accomplished in the New Testament. The readings from scripture tell the history of man's relationship with God. The Church is flooded with light, the tomb is empty, death is conquered! The veils of mourning are lifted, bells ring, the proclamation is proclaimed **"Alleluia, the Lord is Risen"**. The Gloria is said for the first time since the last Sunday in Epiphany. The congregation joins together

in a reaffirmation of faith: The Celebrant blesses them with water from the font as a reminder of their own baptism into Christ's Passion and Resurrection.

EASTER SUNDAY

**THE LORD IS RISEN
ALLELUIA**

Our joy has been made complete. The tomb is empty. Christ has returned in the glory of the Resurrection.



PALM SUNDAY 5TH APRIL 2020

Holy week, in Irish, "Seachtain Càsca" begins today. At one end Passion Sunday and the other end the Easter Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil.

The first Holy week, by the plan of God, was the most important week in the life of Jesus Christ.

This Holy week, likewise, should be the most important week in the entire year for each of us. It should be a week of prayer and meditation, in understanding the events of the Passion of the Lord.

On this day, Palm or Passion Sunday, the Church celebrates Christ's entrance into Jerusalem to accomplish his Paschal Mystery.

Great excitement prevailed in the city upon his arrival. Towards the end of the day He predicted his death by being "lifted up from the Earth" and told the people." Yet for a little while the light will be among you. Walk while you have the light that darkness may not overtake you."

MONDAY, TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK.

These are the days to receive the Sacrament of Penance. They are also the days of reflection on the events of the First Holy week. It is regrettable that we will not be able to celebrate this most important week in the life of the Church as we do every year. Fortunately, parishioners can join in the ceremonies through T.V., Webcam and local Radio during this time, and by listening attentively to the readings.

HOLY MONDAY

Old Testament Reading : Isaiah 42:1-7 Gospel Reading : John 12:1-11

As Jesus dines with his beloved friends, Mary does' something which only love can do. She took the most precious thing she had and spent it all on Jesus. Her love was not calculated but extravagant. Mary's action was motivated by one thing, and one thing only, namely, her love for Jesus and her gratitude for God's mercy. Give us, Lord, a lively faith, a firm hope, a fervent charity, a love of you.

HOLY TUESDAY

Old Testament Readings: Isaiah 49:1-6 Gospel Reading: John 13:21-38

Jesus' disciples were put to the test. What was different between Peter and Judas? Judas deliberately betrayed his Master while Peter, in a moment of weakness, denied him with an oath and a curse. Judas' act was cold and calculated. Peter, acted impulsively, out of weakness and cowardice. We also must examine ourselves in the light of God's truth and grace and ask him to strengthen us in faith, hope, and love that we may not fail him or forsake him when we are tempted.

HOLY WEDNESDAY

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9 Gospel Reading: Matthew 26:14-25

Why did Judas betray his master? Was his treachery motivated by greed, bitter disappointment with Jesus, or hatred because of disillusionment? It may be that Judas never intended his Master to die. Nevertheless, his tragedy was his refusal to accept Jesus as he was.

Do you pray with confidence in the words Jesus gave us to pray.
Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil?

HOLY THURSDAY

The Easter Triduum begins with the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper. It is the anniversary of the Lord's Supper when Jesus ate the Passover meal with His apostles. It was then that he instituted the Eucharist, which is Sacrament, Sacrifice and Memorial.

He commanded His first priests to repeat this action as a Memorial to him. It was also then that he washed their feet and gave us an example and command of love. (John 13:34 Unselfish love is the command of this day. " **Christ gave us a new commandment: love one another" (John 13:34.)**

After Communion the Altar is stripped in silence and the crucifix covered or removed from the sanctuary. The Blessed Sacrament is taken in silence to the Altar of Repose. Mass will not be offered again until the Easter Vigil Service. We depart in Silence from the Church strengthened in our belief that "**when we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus until you come in glory.**"

GOOD FRIDAY

Today the Church celebrates the Passion and Death of our Lord. The celebrant wears red Mass vestments to honour Christ whose blood saves us. A prayer recalling our salvation begins the ceremony. The first reading from Hebrews recalls that Jesus submitted humbly and became for all a source of eternal salvation. The Passion according to John is proclaimed. We pray for all humanity in the General intercessions. The Celebrant then unveils the Cross three times. "Behold the wood of the Cross on which hung the salvation of the world." Each time we kneel and respond. "Come let us adore". The cross is venerated; we genuflect before it and kiss it as a sign of sorrow and gratitude. The Cross is then placed at the Altar of Sacrifice. We are then invited to receive the Body of Christ; at the end of the ceremony we depart the church in Silence. **The evening Stations of the Cross give those working an opportunity to gather around the cross for quiet prayer and reflection and will also be televised. The Stations of the Cross will be available on T.V. Webcam, and radio.**

