



# St Anthony's Parish



# St Bernard's Parish

67-75 EXFORD ROAD, MELTON SOUTH, 3338.  
P.O BOX 2152 MELTON SOUTH 3338  
TEL: 9747 9692 FAX: 9746 0422

61 LERDERBERG STREET, BACCHUS MARSH 3340  
TEL: 5367 2069  
OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, KOROBET  
309 MYRNIONG-KOROBET ROAD 3341

**The 5th Sunday of Lent**

**Year A**

**29th March 2020**

**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr Fabian Smith

**ASSISTANT PRIESTS:** Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint & Fr Alexander Athanas SAC

### ST ANTHONY'S PARISH

**Parish Secretary:** Lesley Morffew

**Admin Assistant:** Judy Johnson

**Parish Office closed until further notice**

Father Fabian 0403 435 471

Father Alexander 0451 665 632

Father Lucas 0478 768 141

**Email:** meltonsouth@cam.org.au

**Website:** stanthonysmeltonsouth.wordpress.com

**St Anthony's School Principal:** Damien Schuster

Wilson Road, Melton South 3338

**Phone:** 8099 7800

**Email:** principal@sameltonsth.catholic.edu.au

**Website:** www.sameltonsth.catholic.edu.au

**Catholic Regional College - Melton (Years 7-12)**

**Principal:** Marlene Jorgensen **Phone:** 8099 6000

**Website:** www.crcmelton.com.au

### ST BERNARD'S PARISH

**Parish Secretary:** Dolores Turcsan

**Admin Assistant:** Judy Johnson

**Sacramental Coordinator/ Bookkeeper:** Naim Chdid

**Parish Office closed until further notice**

Father Fabian 0403 435 471

Father Alexander 0451 665 632

Father Lucas 0478 768 141

**Email:** bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au

**Website:** http://pol.org.au/bacchusmarsh/Home.aspx

**St Bernard's School Principal:** Emilio Scalzo

19a Gisborne Rd, Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340

**Phone:** (03) 5366 5800

**Email:** principal@sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au

**Website:** www.sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au

### **ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL COUNCIL**

Sue Alexander	0400 171 843
Lillian Christian - Vice Chair	0400 441 257
Stephen Fernandes	0439 743 533
Amy Honrade	03 9747 0078
Natalie Howard - Chair	0410 478 046
Villy Julita	0403 751 343
Rose Ma'ae	0431 386 473
Kim Nguyen	0431 035 980

EX-OFFICIO:

Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint, Fr Alexander Athanas  
and Damien Schuster Council Secretary: Judy Johnson

### **ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL COUNCIL**

Cathy Belcher - Vice Chair	0431 082 886
Shane Cook - School Advisory Board	0419 999 052
Peter Farren	0418 594 501
Moir Ross	0400 675 056
Aaron Russell	0401 927 502
John Thorne - Secretary	5310 6692
James Waters - Chair	0403 822 795

EX-OFFICIO:

Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint, Fr Alexander Athanas  
and Emilio Scalzo

### **CHILD SAFETY OFFICERS**

Coordinator: Godwin Barton (0425 734 449)

Officers: Aloysious Dacunha, Karina Dunne & Lorraine Tellis

**Next Thursday the websites will be updated with The Holy Week Liturgies.**

**We will also have hard copies placed outside the Parish Office at St Bernard's and outside the Wilson Road entrance at St Anthony's.**

Dear Parishioners

**As at: Wednesday 25 March 2020, 12.00 pm**

The following Guidelines are approved by Most Rev Peter A Comensoli, Archbishop of Melbourne, to assist Clergy and Faithful with questions pertaining to specific areas of liturgy and ministry in the Archdiocese of Melbourne during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Masses and church buildings** Except for the exemptions noted below, all public Masses, Liturgies and communal devotions (whether indoors or outdoors) are temporarily suspended until further notice.

Also affected by this closure are church buildings, adoration chapels and other church buildings used for public prayer and religious services.

Priests may celebrate Mass privately in a closed church for the purposes of live streaming. In doing so all precautions such as physical distancing and hygiene measures must be modelled and met.

This is not an opportunity to bring select groupings of people together, and numbers can only be extended to a Server and a Reader with the possible inclusion of a camera/iPad operator and a musician.

Prison Masses are currently suspended – although Chaplaincy continues until further notice.

### **Priests Daily Mass**

Daily Mass should be offered for all God's people, the faithful in Melbourne, and the wider community.

The Bishops Conference is hoping to have a specific "Mass in Time of Pandemic" approved for use soon. (Awaiting approval of the Holy See.)

### **Home Masses**

Masses in family homes or other such private or domestic locations are not permitted until further notice.

### **Private Prayer**

Except for exemptions noted below, churches are to be closed under all circumstances until further notice. This includes for private prayer. This directive includes people being able to visit and access churches and chapels.

### **Penance**

Only the First Rite of Penance (individual confession and absolution) can be celebrated, because of the restrictions on numbers.

Priests will do their best to respond to individual requests for the Sacrament, but it is not possible to establish and publicise particular times when the sacrament will be available.

The location for the individual celebration of the Sacrament can be adapted to ensure the required health needs.

People who identify within themselves the need for Confession should contact their Parish clergy directly.

### **Communion to, and Anointing of, the Sick**

It is important that the Sacrament of Anointing be available to those seriously ill and in danger of death.

Holy Communion is not to be given to anyone, including the sick and Homebound, except as Viaticum for the dying.

Only Priests are to offer Viaticum and Anointing to the sick and dying, complying with the protocols of the relevant hospitals or aged-care facilities (washing hands, etc.)

### **Popular Piety**

Personal piety and devotions are strongly encouraged. People may undertake this in their own homes. They are discouraged from bringing others to physically gather together.

Whilst all public liturgies and gatherings are suspended, both churches St Anthony's and St Bernard's are now closed. Holy mass will be offered for you every day in private by the three priests in the parish. If you need to talk to any of us or receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation or the Sacrament for the sick, please do not hesitate to contact any of the priests in the parish. So that one of us is readily available to care for you at this challenging time we, the three priests, have decided to live separately in different location within the parishes until further notice.

Father Alexander will be residing at **St Bernard's Presbytery** to care for those in Bacchus Marsh and can be contacted on **0451 665 632**.

Father Fabian will be residing at **St Anthony's Presbytery** to care for those in Melton South and can be contacted on **0403 435 471**.

Father Lucas will be residing at Missionaries of Love and Peace at **Greendale** to care for those in Korobeit and can be contacted on **0478 768 141**.

**This living arrangement will be in place until public liturgies resume.**

Not being able to go to Mass during the week and on a Sunday can be very distressing, but over a long period of time it can also take its toll on your spiritual life. To prevent that from happening, here are some things you can do at home or when you visit the Church until public liturgies resume.

#### **1. Make a Spiritual Communion**

Spiritual Communion is the heartfelt desire to receive Our Lord, even when we are unable because of the distance or for some other reason. **This desire to receive him through spiritual Communion is an act of love which prolongs our**

**thanksgiving even when we are not in the Eucharistic presence of Our Lord.** The wish to live constantly in his presence can be fuelled by acts of love and desire to be united with him and is a means of drawing more deeply from the life of the Holy Spirit dwelling within our souls in the state of grace. Here are two options for prayers you can say:

#### **From St Aphonusus Liguori:**

My Jesus, I believe that You are truly present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as being already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

#### **From St Thomas More:**

I wish, my Lord, to receive You with the purity, humility and devotion with which your Most Holy Mother received You, with the spirit and fervour of the saints. Come Lord Jesus. Give me, good Lord, a longing to be with You ... give me warmth, delight and quickness in thinking upon You. And give me Your grace to long for Your holy Sacraments, and specially to rejoice in the presence of Your very blessed Body, Sweet Saviour Christ, in the Holy Sacrament of the altar.

**'The effects of a sacrament can be received by desire. Although in such a case the sacrament is not received physically ... nevertheless the actual reception of the sacrament itself brings with it fuller effect than receiving it through desire alone'. (St Thomas Aquinas)**

## **2. Watch Mass live:**

It may not be the same as being there, but if you can watch a Mass online ( <https://mass-online.org> or [www.ewtn.com](http://www.ewtn.com)) it will help you to maintain your Sunday routine and to remind yourself that Sunday is the Lord's day. Some options for watching Mass online: The Dominican Sisters of St Joseph live stream and record Mass every day, as well as the Rosary, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the Divine Office. They have a schedule on their website so that you know what time to be in front of your screen if you want to watch it live. The website Mass Online offers links to Mass being streamed in many churches across the world. Likewise, Live Mass offers the same service. Both websites give a schedule of when Masses take place local time and allow you to save them to Google Calendar in advance to remind you.

If you live with other Catholics, whether your family or flatmates or if you have Catholic neighbours, you may like to gather together to watch Mass to create a sense of community. Watching Mass at the same time every Sunday – or indeed every weekday – may help you to create a new routine, which will be particularly important to your wellbeing if you're housebound or without Mass for a long period of time. Even if you have no one to watch with you, watching online will help you to feel that you belong to a worldwide community of believers – to Christ's Church.

## **3. Read the Mass readings of the day**

Even when the world is business as usual, it's important to read Sunday Mass readings ahead of time. If you can, try to spend some time meditating on them to discern what God might be trying to tell you through the readings. Lectio Divina is a great method of meditating on Scripture that was started by St Ignatius of Loyola and is something you might like to utilise when praying with the Sunday Gospel. For an explanation on Lectio Divina, here is a helpful video from a parish priest, or alternatively here is a written guide from IgnatianSpirituality.com. For the readings themselves, the Magnificat App is currently free to help all those unable to attend Mass. The UK edition is available on Android and on iOS. Editions for the US and in other languages are also available – such for Magnificat wherever you get your apps. Alternatively, find them online at Universalis.

## **4. Mark the Lord's Day**

When you're housebound for weeks on end, or even if you're no longer commuting, you may find it harder to notice that it's a Sunday as it becomes just the same as every other day. It's more important than ever then to mark the Sabbath. You might like to make an effort to wear your "Sunday best" even if you're not leaving the house, or to have a day free from screens, pray the rosary together as a household, or something else.

**On behalf of Father Alexander and Father Lucas, I can assure that each of you are in our prayers and at every mass during this time.**

Many blessings

Fr Fabian

## PARISH EVENTS & NOTICES

### **MESSAGE FROM DEACON JIM CURTAIN, DIOCESAN DIRECTOR OF CARITAS AUSTRALIA, ABOUT THE PROJECT COMPASSION 2020 APPEAL.**

We here at Caritas understand that many in our community will have financial concerns, worries about health, and worries about their future due to the COVID19 crisis. We do appreciate that many generous people who would normally give may no longer be in a position to do so. However, through Project Compassion we support people and communities in countries that have nothing like the resources of Australia, where governments do not have the ability to provide social welfare payments or subsidise employers to keep people in work. Bearing in mind the uncertainty that we are all experiencing, we would still ask that, if you are able, you consider continuing to support Project Compassion as best you can. Thank you for your generosity in the past, and for whatever you feel able to give now.

### **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS**

A reminder that daylight savings ends on Sunday 5th April, 2020. Put your clocks back 1 hour.



## NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

ST ANTHONY'S

ST BERNARD'S

### **Prayer to St Joseph**

(From the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne)

St Joseph,

You were receptive to God working in your life. Help us by your prayers at this time of trial.

You kept Jesus and Mary under your watchful care: may your prayers assist our local Church to respond to those in need.

You taught the Christ Child your trade and prayers: help us follow his example of love.

You were part of God's plan for all humanity: assist us to be vigilant and responsible this day.

You spent your life in service: may we be mindful of others, particularly the elderly and vulnerable, caring for them in these difficult days.

You trusted in the clear primacy of God over all history and every situation:

help us to grow in faith and pray to the Father.

*Thy will be done.*

Amen



## WORSHIP NEWS

ALL VOLUNTEERS IN OUR PARISH MUST HAVE A CURRENT WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK

### ST ANTHONY'S

#### ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

**We pray for those whose death anniversaries occur at this time:**

Ida Christina Enriquez, Vincent Hallsworth, Marina Marano, Catherine McLaren, Charlie Morrison & Marcelina Nalipay

**Please pray for the Sick:**

Jean Barnett, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Liza Fernandes, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Reg Marslen, Kevin Michael, Veronica Michael, Wanda Novak, John Osborne, Peter Poole, Irene Rahilly, Catherine Roberts, Peter Roberts, Pat Roberts, Charlie Spiteri, Dolores Turcsan, Clint Abela Wadge, & John Xuereb and all those who have requested our prayers.

(PLEASE LET US KNOW WHEN YOUR LOVED ONE IS NO LONGER REQUIRED ON THIS LIST)

### ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

#### ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

#### FAITH ON FIRE PRAYER GROUP

Every fortnight on Thursday at 7.00pm. We pray the Rosary, Stations of the cross, Divine Mercy chaplet and do a Bible reading and discussion.

Next meeting **To be advised**

**We pray for those whose death anniversaries occur at this time:**

George Hamm, Brendan Love & Brice Lummis.

**Please pray for the Sick:**

Noah Barlow, Chaiel Balcombe, Michael Barrett, Peter Bennett, Steven Braszel, Kevin Bridges, Tina Bower, John Canty, Fred Capuano, Gary Ching, Josephine Cilia, Robyn Cola, Ted Cooling, Marianne Cuskelly, Lindsay & Kathleen Dally, Judy Delahey, Jack DeLuca, Allison Evans, Helen Evans, Justin Fernandez, Pasquale Gagliarbi, Mario Galea, Cynthia Goodyear, Gwen Green, Joe Gristi, Adam Hillier, Elle Hillman, Kiahni Holamotutama, Alicia Holborn, Chaiel Jackson, Matthew Jansen, David Johnson, David Kasprzak, Michael Larkin, Marie Maloney, Patricia Marechal, Debbie Marshall, Jordanis Mary Pauline McDonald, Ian McKechnie, Marcus Meno, Paul Mullin, Arthur Pape, Michael Paterson, Georgia Peacock, Bev Pickett, Mitchell Prendergast, Peter Roberts, Ken Shaw, Terry Sims, Marian Smith, Elizabeth Stehmann, Susan Trist, Dolores Turcsan, Stephen Van Eede, John Van Orsouw, Angela Vicum, Louis Vogels, Mary Wadeson, Barry Walsh, Mary Walsh, Cath Wheelahan, Jayne Wilkins, Patricia Yazbek, & Betty Young.

(PLEASE LET US KNOW WHEN YOUR LOVED ONE IS NO LONGER REQUIRED ON THIS LIST)

#### FATIMA STATUE

These families are praying together for the mission of the Parish:

Group 1: **Carmen Vella** **0429 435 724**

Group 2: **Maria & Juan Dumandan** **0402 177 623**

Group 3: **Helen Calleja** **0401 497 980**



#### NEO-CONSTANTINOPOLITAN CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

[bow during the next line]

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### **ENTRANCE PROCESSION**

Give me justice, O God,  
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.  
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,  
for you, O God, are my strength.

### **FIRST READING** Ezekiel 37:12-14

The Lord says this: I am going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this - it is the Lord who speaks.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM : 129**

**Comm:** With the Lord there is mercy  
and fullness of redemption.

**All:** With the Lord there is mercy  
and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,  
Lord, hear my voice!  
O let your ear be attentive  
to the voice of my pleading.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,  
Lord, who would survive?  
But with you is found forgiveness:  
for this we revere you.

My soul is waiting for the Lord,  
I count on his word.  
My soul is longing for the Lord  
more than watchman for daybreak.  
(Let the watchman count on daybreak  
and Israel on the Lord.)

Because with the Lord there is mercy  
and fullness of redemption,  
Israel indeed he will redeem  
from all its iniquity.

**All:** With the Lord there is mercy  
and fullness of redemption.

### **SECOND READING** Romans 8:8-11

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;  
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.  
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### **GOSPEL** John 11:1-45

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. - It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?'

Jesus replied:

'Are there not twelve hours in the day?

A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this world to see by;

but if he walks at night he stumbles, because there is no light to guide him.'

He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.' The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep', so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas - known as the Twin - said to the other disciples, 'Let us go too, and die with him.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak

for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.

### **NEXT WEEK'S READINGS –**

#### **PALM SUNDAY**

(Entrance: Mt 21:1-11)

**First Reading:** Is 50:4-7;

**Second Reading:** Phil 2:6-11;

**Gospel:** Mt 26:14-27:66



# Catholic worship and piety: Holy Week 2020

Holy Week is most definitely a very sacred time of the year, for it is now that we will commemorate and remember the last week of Jesus' life on this earth. These are the days leading up to the great Easter Feast. The Lenten season of sacrifice and self-denial is about to come to an end, but this coming week is extremely important for all Christians. The greatest focus of the week is the Passion (suffering) and Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the events that led up to it.

Historical documents tell us that as early as the fourth century the Church celebrated this "Great Week" with a feeling of profound sanctity. It begins with Palm Sunday, which marks Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The central feature of the service proper to this day, as it was in the earliest times, is the procession of palms. The palms are blessed and are then borne in procession to the church, where an entry is made with a certain amount of ceremony, after which the Mass is celebrated. The other notable and very ancient feature of the present Palm Sunday service is the reading of the Gospel of the Passion by three readers.

The faith advances extraordinary claims — the two principal ones being "God became man" and "Jesus rose from the dead in glory". These claims have been disputed as matters of fact down through the ages, of course, but they are not *ridiculous* claims on the face of them. Anybody can see that, if there is a God, he *might*, if he chose, become human and he *might*, if he chose, rise from the dead. Whether he did or not is a matter of evidence and faith.

These days, the claim is often put that Jesus never claimed to be the Messiah, let alone God, but his disciples simply misunderstood Him. But would a man deliberately gather a group of disciples around him and spend years assuring them that he is *not* the Messiah, all while they nodded and repeated back to him: "Exactly. You are the Messiah." And if he didn't want to be called "son of David" (that is, "Messiah") you have to wonder why he kept answering when people shouted: "Son of David, have mercy on me!" instead of chewing them out for being silly.

The truth is, the disciples thought Jesus was the Messiah because he claimed — in a dozen ways — to be the Messiah. And Palm Sunday is the most public and obvious claim of all. The only reason we don't see that clearly is because we aren't steeped in Jewish history. The history takes us back a thousand years to the moment when Solomon, the first "son of David" was crowned king.

Bathsheba, mother of Solomon, acting in her office as Queen Mother, goes to the aging David to warn that Adonijah is making a grab at David's crown and to ask that he name Solomon as his successor:

"And the king swore, saying, 'As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my soul out of every adversity, as I swore to you by the LORD, the God of Israel, saying, "Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne in my stead"; even so will I do this day.' Then Bathsheba bowed with her face to the ground, and did obeisance to the king, and said, 'May my lord King David

live for ever!' King David said, 'Call to me Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada.' So they came before the king. And the king said to them, 'Take with you the servants of your lord, and **cause Solomon my son to ride on my own mule**, and bring him down to Gihon; and let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet there anoint him king over Israel; then blow the trumpet, and say, "Long live King Solomon!" ' " (1 Kings 1:29-34)

The gesture of riding the donkey into Jerusalem was not lost on a single person in the crowd on Palm Sunday. That's why they shout: "Hosanna to the Son of David!" People thought Jesus was the Messiah because they understood perfectly well that he was claiming to be the Messiah.

Especially important for Catholics is the Easter Triduum. This is the three days just before Easter. On Holy Thursday, we re-enact the Lord's Last Supper, which He shared with His apostles on the night He was betrayed and arrested. This is one of the most beautiful liturgies of the entire liturgical year. At the Mass, the priest will wash the feet of 12 men, just as Jesus did. Also on this night, priests all over the world will renew their sacred vows. This is because, at the Last Supper, Jesus not only instituted the Mass (Eucharist) but also the ministerial priesthood.

On Good Friday, the day of the crucifixion and death of our Lord, we have the veneration of the Cross. A service is held at three o'clock in the afternoon (the hour He is believed to have died) and another later in the evening. We go forward and kiss the Cross in order to show honour and respect for Christ's sacrifice for our sake. There is no consecration of the Eucharist on this day, and the Communion we receive will be from the night before, which has been reserved in the tabernacle.

Holy Saturday is a vigil. We keep watch for the expectant rising of Our Saviour. This was the day He went down into the netherworld in order to bring back up with Him into heaven those who had died before His coming. Up to this time, the gates to heaven were closed and no one could go there because of the first sin of Adam. Jesus changed all that. By paying the price for our sins on the Cross, He gained for us our eternal salvation, and heaven was opened once more. Also on this night, persons who have spent months of preparation will be received through Baptism and Confirmation into the Catholic Church. It is a joyous occasion.

Those who engage themselves wholeheartedly in living the entire paschal cycle (Lent, Triduum and Easter's Fifty Days) discover that it can change them forever. This is especially so of the Triduum, which, standing at the heart of the Easter season, is an intense immersion in the fundamental mystery of what it is to be Christian. During these days, we suffer with Christ so that we might rise with Him at His glorious Resurrection.

Holy Week is a time to clear our schedules of unnecessary activities. Our minds and hearts should be fixed on Jesus and what He did for us. Let us bear the Cross so that may be worthy of wearing the crown He wore.