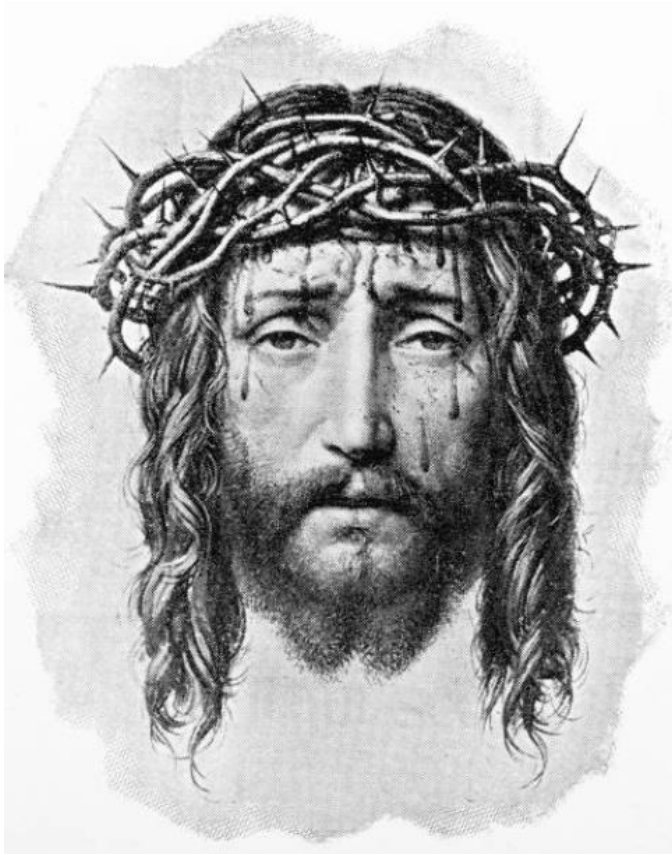


**St Mary's Parish  
Halifax**



**HOLY WEEK 2024**

*'Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!'*

## HOLY WEEK

The Holy Week liturgies are the celebration of the central mysteries of our faith. At a time when the world is in such desperate need of prayer please make every effort to attend the Paschal Triduum. (Thursday, Friday and Saturday). **There is nothing more important than this.**

### **Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

Palm Sunday is the beginning of Holy Week and the start of a sacred journey that will take us to the heart of our faith and to the celebration of Easter.

Palm Sunday has two aspects that are joined together: first, the joyful commemoration of the Lord's triumphant entry into Jerusalem (the *palm* aspect) and then the commemoration of his passion and death (the *passion* aspect). Today we are invited to join the Lord as he enters Jerusalem and begins the last week of his earthly life, leading to the resurrection. We are also invited to take blessed palms to remind us and others of the true meaning of this great week.

### **Wednesday 11am: Chrism Mass at Leeds Cathedral**

Each year during Holy Week, every diocese celebrates the 'Chrism Mass'. This is a great gathering of the diocese around the bishop, with the priests and faithful, held in the cathedral – one of the most important gatherings of the year. In the context of Holy Week, this special Mass is a celebration of the sacramental life of the Church which flows from Christ's wounded heart on the cross. At the Chrism Mass, the bishop and priests renew their commitment. The special oils which are used in the sacraments at Easter and throughout the year are blessed and consecrated. Everyone is invited to join in the Mass at the Cathedral in Leeds. The Mass begins at 11am but please arrive early for a seat.

## **Holy Thursday 7.00pm: Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper**

The Sacred Triduum begins on the evening of Holy Thursday. This Mass is a commemoration of the Last Supper, when Jesus celebrated the Passover, just before his own 'Passover' from death to life. This beautiful Mass recalls the institution of the Eucharist in Christ's own sacrifice on the cross, and celebrates the Lord's command to love and serve each other. At the end of Mass, the time at the Altar of Repose is a commemoration of the Lord's agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. Here, we are invited to 'watch and pray' with the Lord as the events of his arrest and suffering began.

## **Good Friday 3pm: Celebration of the Lord's Passion**

Good Friday is day marked by simplicity and faith. It is a day of fasting and abstinence. At 3 o'clock, the hour of mercy, our solemn celebration is a commemoration of Christ's passion and death on the cross. We are invited to listen to the Passion; to pray for the whole world; and to venerate the cross. This is not a funeral for Jesus – we know, in fact, that Christ is truly risen from the dead and that the promise of Easter beckons and fills us with hope and joy.

## **Holy Saturday 7.00pm: Easter Vigil & First Mass of Easter**

The Easter Vigil is the culmination of the whole journey, the greatest celebration in the life of the Church. Since antiquity, this great celebration is known as the 'mother of all holy vigils.' On this night, the faithful gather to keep watch for the coming of Christ who illumines our darkness and saves us from sin. The fire is blessed and our candles are lit to pierce the night: their light of faith allows us to look for Christ's coming. This night is one of true liberation and rebirth when we recall our own baptism, and when we welcome new members of the Church in the baptismal font and at the altar. It is also the First Mass of Easter and the greatest celebration that Christ is truly risen from the dead. **Please join us on this special night if you can.**

## HOLY WEEK

**24-31 March 2024**

### **Palm Sunday**

24 March 9.30am, 11am, 6.00pm

Monday

25 March 10am Mass, followed by Confessions

Tuesday

26 March 10am Mass, followed by Confessions  
12 Noon Requiem Mass for Kathleen Hirst

Wednesday

27 March 11am Chrism Mass at Leeds Cathedral

### **Holy Thursday**

28 March *NB No Masses this morning*  
**7.00pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper**  
Watching at the Altar of Repose till 10pm

### **Good Friday**

29 March *Day of Fasting & Abstinence*  
*Special collection for the Holy Places*

10am-11am Confessions

**3pm Celebration of the Passion of the Lord**

7pm Stations of the Cross at St Mary's

### **Holy Saturday**

30 March 3pm-4pm Confessions  
*NB No Lunchtime Mass*

**7.00pm Solemn Easter Vigil in the Holy Night  
& First Mass of Easter**

### **Easter Sunday**

31 March Easter Sunday Masses  
9.30am, 11am (Solemn)