



WELCOME TO ST MARYS PARISH

2 TOOLAMBA ROAD (PO Box 365) MOOROPNA VIC 3629

PH: 5825 2034

Parish Priest: Mons Peter Jeffrey

Email address: mons.peterj@bigpond.com

Parish Secretary: Laura Lawn

Email address: Mooroopna@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Office Hours: Tues and Frid: 9.00am —3:00pm

The Living Word

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, Year A

2 April 2023

Gospel Mt 21:1-11

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

When they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find an ass tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, "The Lord has need of them," and he will send them immediately'. This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, 'Tell the daughter of Zion, Behold, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass'.

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the ass and the colt, and put their garments on them, and he sat thereon. Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David!' Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest! And when he entered Jerusalem all the city was stirred, saying, 'Who is this?' And the crowds said, 'This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee.'

First Reading Is 50:4-7

I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the one who reproaches me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

Responsorial Psalm

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

(R.) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

- All who see me deride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads. 'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him; let him release him if this is his friend.' (R.)
- Many dogs have surrounded me, a band of the wicked beset me. They tear holes in my hands and my feet. I can count every one of my bones. (R.)
- They divide my clothing among them. They cast lots for my robe. O Lord, do not leave me alone, my strength, make haste to help me! (R.)
- I will tell of your name to my brethren and praise you where they are assembled. 'You who fear the Lord give him praise; all sons of Jacob, give him glory. Revere him, Israel's sons.' (R.)

Second Reading Phil 2:6-11

He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus

and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation Phil 2:8-9

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!

Gospel shorter form Mt 27:11-54

Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate, the governor, and the governor put to him this question, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' Jesus replied, 'It is you who say it.' But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders he refused to answer at all. Pilate then said to him, 'Do you not hear how many charges they have brought against you?' But to the governor's complete amazement, he offered no reply to any of the charges.

At festival time it was the governor's practice to release a prisoner for the people, anyone they chose. Now there was at that time a notorious prisoner whose name was Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?' For Pilate knew it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over.

Now as he was seated in the chair of judgement, his wife sent him a message, 'Have nothing to do with that man; I have been upset all day by a dream I had about him.'

The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' they said 'Barabbas'. 'But in that case,' Pilate said to them 'what am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?' They all said, 'Let him be crucified!' 'Why?' he asked 'What harm has he done?' But they shouted all the louder, 'Let him be crucified!' Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said, 'I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your concern.' And the people, to a man, shouted back, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' Then he released Barabbas for them. He ordered Jesus to be first scourged and then handed over to be crucified.

The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort around him. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him.

On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and enlisted him to carry his cross. When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink mixed with gall, which he tasted but refused to drink. When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothing by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him.

Above his head was placed the charge against him; it read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said 'So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God's son, come down from the cross!' The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way. 'He saved others,' they said 'he cannot save himself. He is the king of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He put his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, "I am the son of God."' Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way.

From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood there heard this, they said, 'The man is calling on Elijah,' and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink. 'Wait!' said the rest of them 'and see if Elijah will come to save him.' But Jesus again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to a number of people. Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said, 'In truth this was a son of God.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Jesus entered Jerusalem, not as a warrior in the tradition of King David as many had hoped for, but riding simply on a donkey. The disciples and the crowd applauded him, but they proved fickle in their support.

On the other hand, Jesus remained steadfast in his commitment to non-violent revolutionary change of the religious and political systems so as to establish the reign of God. Why did he renounce marshalling human and angelic warriors to further his cause?

First, Jesus embodied God-for-us, and God does not want the destruction of those he has created out of love. Second, Jesus had a premonition that an armed revolt would lead to the destruction of Jerusalem and the dispersal of the Jewish people (as occurred in 70AD).

Third, another Gospel (Luke) recounts that as Jesus laboured up Mount Calvary he turned to some weeping women and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, weep rather for yourselves and for your children.' He knew that they suffer grievously in armed uprising. This is seen in barbaric reality in our own time with women being tortured and raped in campaigns of terror, trafficked into sexual slavery, suffering the loss of sons, husband and lovers.

We could take a moment to pray that the Church of the 21st century, successor of the pacifist Church of the first three centuries, may enter on a new period of reflection on these issues, grappling with the desire to protect the innocent, yet always challenged by the man on a donkey, Divine Prince of Peace.

mtate@bigpond.com

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ST MARY'S PARISH MOTTO

"Reaching out to each other
- growing together in love"

St Mary's Mooroopna acknowledge the Yorta Yorta Nation and the Aboriginal people who have walked this land for thousands of years

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Easter Saturday Vigil 6.30pm
Easter Sunday 10.00am

RECONCILIATION

10.30am to 11.00am Saturday

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

| | | |
|----------|----------------------|---------|
| Mon 3/4 | Mass | 6.00pm |
| Tues 4/4 | Holy Hour Exposition | 5.00pm |
| | Mass | 6.00pm |
| Wed 5/4 | Mass | 6.00pm |
| Thur 6/4 | Reconciliation | 6.45pm |
| Frid 7/4 | Mass | 10.00am |

PARISH NEWS

EASY WORSHIP

Sat 1st April Valoia Family
Sun 2nd April Valoia Family

Sat 8th April TBC
Sun 9th April TBC

PARISH MEETINGS

The next Parish Pastoral Council Meeting is Wednesday 19th April at 7pm in the Parish House.

Bulletin Funnies

Early one morning the husband and wife were arguing over who should get out of the warm bed to make the coffee. Finally, the wife folded her arms and said decidedly, "You have to make the coffee. It's in the Bible!" The husband was shocked. "Is not! Show me!" Pulling out her Bible, the wife opened it to one of the New Testament books and declared, "It says right here — **HEBREWS!**"

Palm Sunday



It's through the generosity of people like you that we can continue to support people like Laxmi, Teresa, Priscilla and Thu.

The funds you raise can help vulnerable communities around the world improve their access to food and clean water, support education and skills training, help families to increase their income and provide training in disaster risk reduction. Together, we can continue to transform lives today – and For All Future Generations.



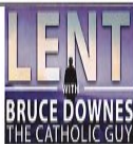
END POVERTY
PROMOTE JUSTICE
UPHOLD DIGNITY



We pray that the mystery of the death of Jesus will deepen within our hearts. May we be ready to take up the cross in our time, especially as we support those who experience injustice throughout the world.

Lent is a time when we can grow closer to God and prepare our hearts for the true meaning of Easter. Be inspired. Be refreshed. Be renewed!

This program is FREE and you can find at: <https://BruceDownes.org/Lent23>



Our young adults' group (18-40yo) gathers to reflect on the readings at Mass for that coming Sunday. There is also time for prayer and fellowship.

No RSVP is needed. We meet every Thursday from 6-7pm in the McKillop Room in the Parish Office (behind St Brendans Church).

Simply show up whenever you are available. For any questions, please speak with Mason 0403 824 346, Berni Sullivan, or Fr Jackson.



Holy Week Mass Times

- Thurs 6 April - 7pm Mass of Lords Supper
We issue an invitation to all our Special Ministers to be present at this Mass to renew their commitment
- Fri 7 April - 3pm Passion of the Lord
- Sat 8 April - 6:30pm Easter Vigil
- Sun 9 April - 10am Easter Sunday



Lenten Reflection

Thank you God

- FOR THE LADY BEHIND ME IN CHURCH WHO SINGS OFF KEY

Because it means I can hear

- FOR THE ALARM THAT GOES OFF IN THE EARLY HOURS OF THE MORNING

Because it means I am still alive

- FOR THE PILE OF LAUNDRY AND IRONING

For it means that I have clothes



SANDHURST DIOCESE CHRISM MASS

The Chrism Mass for 2023 will be at the Sacred Heart Cathedral on **Tuesday, 4th April, at 11.00am**. Parish representatives will present oils to be blessed by the Bishop for the Sacraments during the coming year.

All parishioners of the Diocese are warmly invited to this very significant Mass for our Diocese. Light refreshments and beverages will be provided after the Mass on the Cathedral lawns. Please RSVP to your Parish Office by Thursday 30th March for catering purposes. Parking around the Cathedral will be limited so please allow time to find a suitable park in the nearby streets.



Next Saturday, Mons Peter celebrates another milestone....85 years young! We wish him every wish for a year filled with good health and many happy moments.

God's Blessings!
Happy birthday Monsignor! May there be many, many more to come.

Advent Appeal

The Assisi Aid Projects Team would like to thank St Mary's Parish for the very generous donation of \$700 from the Advent Appeal. The gift makes an enormous difference and is a vital contribution to the single women and children in the communities they serve. Without the donation the achievements of the projects would not be possible. Thank you!



(Note - \$700 was also donated to Caritas Sandhurst)

ECUMENICAL PALM SUNDAY SERVICE, Sunday April 2, 2023

At the Dookie Quarry—gates open 4.00pm for a 4.30pm start.

Bring your own things, chair, rug, coat, food, thermos, soft drink, torch, repellent etc. All are Welcome.



Park at the Dookie Recreation ground. Its only a short walk to the quarry.

In case of wet weather, please meet at the Uniting Church Hall, Curtain Street, Dookie.

Queries: Judy 0455 727 750.

Celebrating the Steins

Shepparton's Peter & Lorraine Stein celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary this week. The couple were married on 30 March in 1962 at St Kilian's Church in Bendigo by a priest who later became a bishop so, they now chuckle that, they were technically married by a bishop. They say the secret to their happy marriage is to have faith, not only in each other but in a shared religion. They are pictured here (right) in a photo taken by the Shepparton News at their 60th Wedding Anniversary Lunch at the Shepparton RSL last Saturday.





Readings for this week:

Matthew 21:1-11
Isaiah 50:4-7
Philippians 2:6-11
Matthew 26:14-27:66



Readings for next week:

Acts 10:34, 37-43
Col 3:1-4 or 1Cor 5:6-8
John 20:1-9 or Matt 28:1-10

Paul Wickham Pharmacy

83 McLennan Street
MOORoopNA
5825 2144

info@wickhampharmacy.com.au



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PH (24HRS): 03 5825 1651

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR

Sick List: Graeme Weir, Cherie Mammone, Jim McIntyre, Pat Treacy, Irene Murphy, Irene Biesiekierski, Dennis Corboy, Barry Monaghan, Fr Steve Bohan, Parish Priest of Yarrowonga, Kim Smyth, Noela McIntyre, Sam Sali, Rosemary Wingrave, Angelo Conti, Patrick Keane (Mons. Nephew), Nathan Hayes, Frank Laface and Pat Hicks.

Recently Deceased: Val Williams, Eileen Dolan

Anniversaries:

ALTAR HELPERS Apr 1st Marg & Kevin Lee

Apr 8th not required

BINGO April 8th Maree Williams, David McIntyre, Chris & Miriam Hogarty, Emma Difede, Josie Wood

| 1st & 2nd April | COMMENTOR | READER | SPECIAL MINISTER | OFFERTORY |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 6:30 pm | Checca Richards | Chris Hoggarty | Rob O'Meara | Angelina Vigliaturo |
| 10.00 am | Brenda Pye | Anthony Butts | Cecily Dumaresq | Tom & Cecily Dumaresq |
| 8th & 9th April | | | | |
| 6:30 pm | TBA | TBA | Ester Janke | TBA |
| 10.00 am | TBA | TBA | Margaret Campbell | TBA |