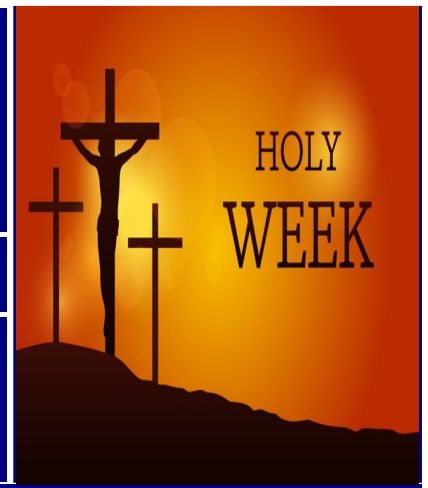


The Catholic Parish of Carpenders Park & South Oxhey  
 St Joseph's Church, Oxhey Drive, Watford WD19 7SW  
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**Holy Week & Easter 2023 Double Edition (Year A)**

Fr John Warnaby Parish Priest Tel: 0208 428 0088  
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 Office hours: Tuesday & Friday 9am-3pm

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Saturday 1st April	Vigil: Palm Sunday	6.00pm Eleanor Rowe RIP
Sunday 2nd April	Palm Sunday	8.30am People of the Parish
		10.30am Beth Jeffers RIP
Tuesday 4th April	Tuesday of Holy Week	7.00pm Erminia RIP
Wednesday 5th April	Wednesday of Holy Week	11.00am Funeral Mass of Andrew Walsh
Thursday 6th April	Maundy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper	8.00pm Helen Birch RIP
Friday 7th April	Good Friday	3.00pm Passion of the Lord (Children's Liturgy in the hall –drop off 2.45pm)
		6.00pm Stations of the Cross
Saturday 8th April	Holy Saturday-Easter Vigil	8.00pm Jean O'Hara RIP
Sunday 9th April	<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>	8.30am Maurice Rodrigo & John Crowle RIP
		10.30am People of the Parish
Tuesday 11th April	Easter Octave	7.00pm Andrew Walsh RIP
Wednesday 12th April	Easter Octave	9.15am Bill Petch RIP, Sid West RIP & Kieron Byrne RIP
Thursday 13th April	Easter Octave	9.15am Patsy & Rita Kinsella RIP
Friday 14th April	Easter Octave	9.15am David & Elizabeth Griffin RIP followed by Holy Hour
Saturday 15th April	Vigil: 2nd Sunday of Easter	6.00pm People of the Parish

**Liturgy of the Word: Palm Sunday**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel. Hosanna in the highest.  
**Responsorial Psalm:** My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
**Gospel Acclamation:** Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!  
 Christ 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 names.  
 Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

**Next week's Readings:** Acts 10:34, 37-43, Psalm 117, Colossians 3: 1-4 John 20:1-9

**Liturgy of the Word: Easter Sunday**

**Entrance Antiphon:** I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia.  
 You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia.  
 Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.  
**Responsorial Psalm:** This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.  
**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia!  
 Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed;  
 let us celebrate the feast then, in the Lord. Alleluia!

**Next week's Readings:** Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 117, I Peter 1:3-9, John 20: 19-31

## **"Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Matthew 21:10)**

Although we call today Palm Sunday, Matthew's gospel mentions crowds cutting down unspecified tree branches to spread on his pathway. The Church's liturgy most closely reflects the account given in John's gospel: this alone has the crowd coming out to meet Jesus with palm branches, as he approaches Jerusalem.

The use of palm branches in ceremonies has a long history: they were used in ancient Egyptian funeral rites to symbolise eternal life and were included on some victory monuments of ancient Greece. In the Greek and Roman empires palms were awarded to winning athletes and became symbols of victory in war. The vanquishing Roman leader had a toga bearing a palm image and since victory brought an end to war, the palm also might symbolise the beginning of an era of peace.

Under the Romans the date palm was a symbol of Judea's fertility and appeared on coins. Palms are established as marks of rejoicing in the book of Leviticus where they are required to be used along with branches of other "luxuriant trees", to launch the Jewish festival of *Booths or Tabernacles*.

Jesus' acclamation from the crowd ("Blessings on him . . .") is from Psalm 118 and the people will probably have taken up a popular chant used in the Temple for the feasts of Tabernacles and Passover. "With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar" (v 27). In the original psalm, the King is going up to the Temple to offer the *todah* or thanksgiving sacrifice. For those who welcome Jesus, the true King of Israel is coming to his city to offer the supreme thanksgiving sacrifice not sacrificial animals, but of himself.

Be with us Lord as we begin our Holy Week journey with you. Praise to you O Christ, king of eternal glory !

## **God Friday Walk of Witness.**

Setting off from South Oxhey Baptist Church at **9.45am**. Picking up from other Churches along the way and concluding with a simple Service at the Nisa Precinct. Refreshments at the Methodist Church afterwards.

## **Our Easter Raffle**

You may have noticed a magnificent hamper at the back of church recently. That is the first, in a series of fantastic prizes we have had donated by our generous parishioners and local businesses for our Easter Raffle. *Many thanks-* you know who you are! Tickets are only £1 per strip and will be on sale after all weekend Masses.

*The draw will take place on Tuesday 11th April and the winners will be contacted.*

The **Big Give** campaign for **The Passage** is now live. **All donations made will be doubled.** Please support the homeless charity, of which Cardinal Vincent Nichols is the Patron. "We have seen a 46% increase in the number of people coming to our doors for help. If you would like to support more people on their journey from street to home, now is the time to do so"

[www.passage.org.uk](http://www.passage.org.uk)

**The Passage**   
Everyone deserves a place to call home



## **The Big Lent Walk - Greg Birch**

This Lent Greg Birch will be taking on the Big Lent Walk! He'll be walking 200km in 40 days to raise money for CAFOD's work around the world. If you would like to support Greg, please see <https://cafod.enthuse.com/pf/gregorybirch>.

There is a poster with a qr code on the noticeboard.

The new planned giving envelopes have arrived and are ready for collection at the back of church. The first envelope in the pack is for Easter Sunday. It's still not too late to swap the way you give to the parish! **The most helpful way of supporting the parish is donating by standing order**, which also reduces our volunteers' work in counting .

If you would like to switch from envelopes or cash, to standing order, please let us know asap. Alternatively, pick up a standing order form at the back of the church.



The funeral Masses for **Andrew Walsh RIP** will take place on Wednesday 5th April at 11am and **Helen Birch RIP** on Wednesday 19th April at 11am.

There will be no 9.15am Mass on those days.

**Please remember all our sick parishioners in your prayers**, especially Bebe Ryan, Dawn, Phil Carey and Alice Sheppard. Prayers are also asked for Estella Bartolazo RIP whose anniversary falls about this time.