



Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

March 20th 2016
PASSION SUNDAY

**THE HOLY
YEAR OF
MERCY**



THIS IS HOLY WEEK



Holy week begins today.
This is the high point of the
Church's year when we
enter dramatically,
prayerfully and personally
into the passion, death and
resurrection of our Saviour.

Think of this week as a
journey, not individual
events.

Jesus has reached Jerusalem: the goal of a journey. The liturgy begins with a 'Transfiguration moment' that is, anticipated glory. It is the exuberant procession in which we are encouraged to acclaim in triumph 'Hosanna to the son of David!' It all changes after that. Today really is *Passion Sunday*; Jesus' sufferings are portrayed starkly today, not, as on Good Friday, as a triumph. Today we hear the Servant of the Lord meekly accepting suffering. The Psalm allows us to use Jesus's own words. His cry was surely heartfelt. This goes some way to counteracting the later shouts of 'Crucify him!', words which we should tremble to utter. We take various roles today: singing 'Hosanna!' gives us the opportunity to think what would our own response have been if we had been there - cheering with the crowds or denying our Lord?

JESUS DEATH

‘Of what conceivable significance, for us today, is the death of a Jew in Palestine two thousand years ago?’

On the cross Jesus dealt with the problem of our sin. Peter writes, ‘He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed’ (1 Peter 2:24). Jesus died in our place, bore our sins and took our guilt, to pay the full penalty for our sin and to set us free from addiction, fear and ultimately death.

On 31st July 1941 a prisoner escaped from Auschwitz. As a reprisal the Gestapo arbitrarily selected ten men to die in the starvation bunker, including a man called Francis Gajinisdek. He cried out, ‘My poor wife and my children. They’ll never see me again.’ In response an unimpressive looking Polish man stepped forward and said, ‘I’m a Catholic priest. I don’t have a wife and children and I am willing to die instead of this man.’

Maximilian Kolbe was the name of this priest and he went with the others into the bunker. Remarkably he got the prisoners praying and singing hymns and transformed the atmosphere in the bunker. He was the last person to die and after two weeks he was given a lethal injection and died at the age of 47.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 19th March

10.00am Private Intention

6.00pm Kathleen & Frank Bradley (RIP)
Anniv.

PASSION SUNDAY 20th March

8.30am Denis Mann (RIP) Rec. Dec.

9.45am Mary Taylor (RIP) Rec. Dec.

11.30am Ralph Langshaw (RIP)

Monday 21st March

9.15am Private Intention

Tuesday 22nd March

9.15am Sr Bernadette O’Brien O.P. (RIP)
Rec. Dec.

Wednesday 23rd March

9.15am Luis, Amable & Alfredo Arrojo (RIP)

HOLY THURSDAY 24th March

8.00pm Sr Loretta Intentions

GOOD FRIDAY 25th March

10.30am Walk of Witness

11.30am Children’s Stations of the Cross

3.00pm Liturgy of the Passion

Saturday 26th March

8.00pm Easter Vigil Mass

Denis Mann (RIP) Rec. Dec.

Sunday 27th March EASTER SUNDAY

8.30am Mary Corr (RIP) Rec. Dec.

9.45am Sr Amy Intentions

11.30am Mary Taylor (RIP) Rec. Dec.

Jesus death was even more amazing than this, because He didn’t simply die for one man, but for every individual in the world. If you or I had been the only person in the world, Jesus Christ would still have died in our place.

‘Hallelujah, what a Saviour’!!

* * * * *