

The Easter Triduum

The Easter Triduum, (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil) marking the days of Jesus' passion and resurrection, is the most important time of the church year. It begins with the evening Mass of Holy Thursday, reaches its high point in the Easter Vigil, and closes on Easter Sunday evening. Prepared by the days of Lent, Christians celebrate on these holiest of days the saving work God has accomplished in Christ. From the events remembered these days, so sorrowful and so joyful, the church learns the deepest lessons. In rites and words the mysteries of Jesus' final hours are with us again, his passion, his cruel suffering, his rising from the dead. And we discover the answer to age old questions: Does God love us? Is God merciful? Does God care for us?

We have only to look and learn from Jesus Christ. These are days for fixing our eyes on the holy mystery of his cross and filling our ears with the words of his gospel. Nowhere else does God's love appear so vividly. In the love Christ showed for a sinful world we find the beginning of our church, the source of our sacraments, the key to understanding the human story, and our hope for eternal life.

Holy Thursday

The Easter Triduum begins with Mass on Holy Thursday evening, when Jesus sacramentally anticipated the gift he would make of himself on the cross. His command to serve others is dramatically recalled this night in the ceremony of the washing of the feet, which he performed in the supper room for his disciples. Like the Paschal lamb, killed and eaten by the people, according to the Old Testament account read from Exodus this evening, he is a sign of God's salvation.

Good Friday

The Good Friday rites centre around the reading of the Passion of Jesus. With simple dignity that story is retold, followed by prayers for the entire world, for this powerful mystery brings blessings to the world. According to ancient tradition, an image or relic of the cross is venerated this day, and the sacrament of Christ's love for his church is received. It is a day of fasting and quiet mourning.

The Easter Vigil

The Easter Vigil is the high point of the Easter Triduum celebrating the passion and resurrection of Jesus. With a rich display of symbols, rites and readings, the church in worship expresses her faith in the mystery that brings her into being.

The vigil opens with a service of light. The lighting of the fire and the Easter candle go back to rites that long preceded Christianity. The candle, carried with loving reverence and lyrically praised in word and song, is a sign of Christ, "the light of the world," and celebrates the victory of light over darkness that humanity has ever longed for. A series of readings recalls the great interventions of God in history, from creation to the redemption of Israel from Egypt, and ends with the story of Jesus' resurrection. The great "alleluia" proclaims with quiet joy the triumph of God's Son. Those preparing for Baptism then receive the sacraments of initiation. The blessed water sprinkled over others signifies the blessing of new life.

Rejoice! This night says as it brings before us the deepest symbols of our hopes and fears. The darkness, sign of evil and death, has been overcome by light. A lamp, a candle has been lit; a fire is enkindled in our hearts; a nourishing water flows through our lives; a baptism destroys what is unclean and brings to life again. Rejoice! this night says to all creation. The Word who made all things, as a new Adam, freshly proclaims God's promise of life. All creation celebrates God's love.

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST GEORGE, SUDBURY



HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2019



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK

14th April **PALM SUNDAY with blessing of palms**

6.15pm	Saturday Vigil Mass (said)
8.30am	Mass (said)
9.45am	Mass (Family)
11.30am*	Mass (Solemn)
5.30pm	Mass (with hymns)

There will be a procession into Church at the 9.45am & 11.15am Mass. Please assemble outside in the garden area. Please also be on time.

15th April **Monday in Holy Week**

9.00am	Confessions
9.30am	MASS

16th April **Tuesday in Holy Week**

9.00am	Confessions
9.30am	MASS
12noon	Chrism Mass in Westminster Cathedral <i>(All are welcome – no tickets required)</i>

17th April **Wednesday in Holy Week ("Spy Wednesday")**

9.00am	Confessions
9.30am	MASS

* *Please note later time of Mass to avoid car park congestion*

THE SACRED TRIDUUM

18th April

8.00pm

MAUNDY THURDAY

EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
and watch at the Altar of Repose until
Midnight
Night Prayer

12 Midnight

19th April

9.15am

GOOD FRIDAY *Day of fasting & abstinence*

Ecumenical Walk of Witness
(assemble at Sudbury Baptist Church)
Children's workshop together with
Children's Stations of the Cross
(Parish Centre)

11.30am -

12.30pm

3.00pm

SOLEMN LITURGY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

8.00pm

Stations of the Cross & Veneration of the
Relic of the True Cross

20th April

9.30am

HOLY SATURDAY

Morning Prayer
Blessing of Easter foods *(Parish Centre)*
Church Cleaning – *All welcome!*

10.30am

10.00am -1.00pm

During this time a priest will be available in Church to hear Confessions

8.00pm

THE EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT

21st April

8.30am

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION

Mass (said)
Blessing of Easter foods *(Parish Centre)*
Mass (Family)
Pontifical Mass (Solemn)
Mass (said)

9.15am

9.45am

11.15am

5.30pm

There will be an Easter egg hunt for all the children after the 9.45am Mass