

HOLY WEEK

April 13 Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion: So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young ass and sat upon it; as it is written, "Fear not daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on an ass's colt. (Jn 12:13-15)!"

April 14 Monday of Holy Week: For those following the readings of daily Mass in Lent, the biblical best has been saved for Holy Week. The book of the prophet Isaiah contains four separate descriptions of a "Suffering Servant"—a shadowy figure called by God to suffer and give his life for the people.

April 15 Tuesday of Holy Week: This Holy Week Mass brings us the second description of the Christlike Suffering Servant of the Lord. It is almost a portrait of Jesus during Holy Week. These final three Lenten Gospels all describe a dinner with Judas present.

April 16 Wednesday of Holy Week Wednesday of Holy Week is traditionally known as Spy Wednesday, to commemorate the treachery of Judas, who made a bargain with the high priest to betray Jesus for 30 silver pieces (Matt 26:14-16; Mark 14:10-11; Luke 22:1-6)

April 17 Holy Thursday of the Sacred Triduum The last three days of Holy Week are referred to as the Easter or Sacred Triduum (Triduum Sacrum), the three-part drama of Christ's redemption: Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Holy Thursday is also known as "**Maundy Thursday**."

The word *maundy* comes from the Latin word *mandatum* (commandment) which is the first word of the Gospel acclamation: *Mandatum novum do vobis dicit Dominus, ut diligatis invicem, sicut dilexi vos*. "I give you a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you." (John 13:34)

April 18 Good Friday of the Lord's Passion: "It is accomplished; and bowing his head he gave up his spirit." Today the whole Church mourns the death of our Saviour. This is traditionally a day of sadness, spent in fasting and prayer.

April 19 Holy Saturday — Easter Vigil: On Holy Saturday, the Church waits at the Lord's tomb, in prayer and fasting, meditating on his Passion and Death and on his Descent into Hell and awaiting his Resurrection. The Church abstains from the Sacrifice of the Mass, with the sacred table left bare, until after the solemn Vigil, that is, the anticipation by night of the Resurrection, when the time comes for paschal joys,

April 20 Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord: "Easter is the Solemnity of Solemnities, the centre and climax of the Church year. All the mysteries that we have commemorated from Advent until now have pointed toward Easter; all that we shall yet celebrate in the weeks that follow has its foundation in the mystery of Easter, and receives its meaning and importance from this mystery." Benedict Baur, OSB, *The Light of the World* Extracted from: [www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/...](http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/)

"Lent is like a long 'retreat' during which we can turn back into ourselves and listen to the voice of God, in order to defeat the temptations of the Evil One. It is a period of spiritual 'combat' which we must experience alongside Jesus, not with pride and presumption, but using the arms of faith: prayer, listening to the word of God and penance. In this way we will be able to celebrate Easter in truth, ready to renew the promises of our Baptism." —Pope Benedict XVI



St. Joseph's Church O'Connell Avenue, Limerick Church Notices, Sunday 13th April 2025

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Holy Week		Mass Times and Intentions
Day	Time	Name
Sun. Apr. 13 th	10.30am	Mary Kelly (10 th anniversary); Peggy & Phil Naughton
	12.30pm	Mrs Sassamma Abraham (month's mind); Tommy O'Halloran (4 th anniversary)
Mon. Apr. 14 th	10.30am	Marie Fitzpatrick (3 rd anniversary)
Tue. Apr. 15 th	10.30am	Denis Harrington (anniversary)
Wed. Apr. 16 th	10.30am	Intention of Clergy
Thur. Apr. 17 th	5.45pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper
Fri. Apr. 18 th	3.00pm	The Passion of the Lord
Sat. Apr. 19 th	7.30pm	Easter Vigil
Sun. Apr. 20 th	10.30am	Jeremiah Cahill (3 rd anniversary)
	12.30pm	Joe Connolly (10 th anniversary); Catherine Liston (12 th anniversary)

RECENTLY DECEASED

We extend our sympathy to their families, and pray for the repose of the souls of **Janet Ryan (née O'Dowd)** (Keeper Lodge, Killoscully, Newport, Co. Tipperary and formerly of Greenpark, South Circular Road, Limerick) whose Requiem Mass was celebrated here last Wednesday 9th April.

Sr. Mary O'Neill FCJ (Maryville Residence FCJ, Laurel Hill, Limerick and late of Lisdeen, Kilkee, Co. Clare) whose Requiem Mass was celebrated here last Thursday, 10th April.

Gerard (Ger) Clohessy (Talbot Avenue, Prospect) whose Requiem Mass was celebrated here last Friday, 11th April.

Ann Sexton (née McDonogh) (Greenpark, South Circular Road, Limerick) whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated here tomorrow Monday 14th April at 12 noon.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

"The proof of love is in the works. Where love exists, it works great things. But when it ceases to act, it ceases to exist."

—Pope St. Gregory the Great

GAMBLING SUPPORT SERVICE

Southill Family Resource Centre is launching a Gambling Support Service and to mark this important milestone is hosting two drop-in talks on 25th April:

► 2:00 PM at Southill Family Resource Centre

► 6:00 PM at Old Christians GAA Club

The special guest speaker, Tony O'Reilly, will share his remarkable journey from adversity to recovery. Tony is a lecturer, therapist, and the best-selling author of

Tony 10: The Astonishing Story of the Postman Who Gambled €10 Million and Lost It All.

Family Resource Centre statement: Please feel free to come along—everyone is welcome!

If you wish to attend, kindly email dylan@southillfrc.com so we can get a rough idea of numbers. Please also let us know if you will be coming to the event at Southill Family Resource Centre or Old Christians GAA Club.

If you or someone you know needs support with gambling, please don't hesitate to contact us at dylan@southillfrc.com or call 083-4143684. Your well-being matters, and we are here to help.

REFLECTION FOR PALM (PASSION) SUNDAY-APRIL 13, 2025

Holy Week is the high point of the liturgical year. This Sunday, we begin this great week with Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Among the crowds of those waving palm branches, we find those who still doubt Jesus' identity and the call to which God is asking of us.

It must have been an amazing sight to see all those people shouting "Hosanna!" In a few days, these would be the people who would be saying, "Crucify Him." Carrying the weight of the Cross for us, Jesus kept His eyes fixed on Jerusalem.

During this week, Jesus was betrayed by His disciples. One of his disciples even said he did not know Him. Jesus shared a meal with His disciples and even washed their feet. The sorrow-filled procession that Jesus made on Good Friday was so different from the joyful entry that He made on Palm (Passion) Sunday.

In the celebrations of Holy Week, Jesus meets us on the road to Calvary. We encounter God's thirst for us. In the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we also discover God's great love for us and are called to affirm our own identity with God.

Created in the image and likeness of God, we strive to live by Jesus' words and examples. However, as human beings, we struggle with injustice, betrayal, greed, and pain. God knows the things we carry that do not bring us peace. This Holy Week and each day of our lives, we are reminded to invite Jesus into our journeys. Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. <https://spiritans.org/news/reflection-for-palm-passion-sunday-april-13-2025>

WHY PALMS?

Palm Sunday commemorates Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, an event mentioned in each of the four canonical Gospels. Its name originates from the palm branches waved by the crowd to greet and honour Jesus Christ as he entered the city.

In most Christian rites, Palm Sunday is celebrated with the blessing and distribution of palm branches (or the branches of other, native trees), representing the palm branches that the crowd scattered before Christ as he rode into Jerusalem.

The difficulty of procuring palms in unfavourable climates led to the substitution of branches of native trees, including box, olive, willow, yew, spruce, fir etc.

Information from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palm_Sunday

'PILGRIM PASSPORT' INITIATIVE TO MARK JUBILEE YEAR 2025

Ireland's three main pilgrimage locations, Lough Derg, Knock Shrine, and Croagh Patrick have announced the launch of the 'Pilgrim Passport', an initiative designed to mark the significant occasion of Jubilee Year 2025.

This special year, declared by Pope Francis as a time of spiritual renewal under the theme: **Pilgrims of Hope**, presents the perfect opportunity for Ireland's major pilgrimage sites to come together and create a memorable experience for pilgrims from far and wide. The 'Pilgrim Passport' is a bespoke booklet that encourages visitors to embark on a spiritual journey across Ireland, exploring a rich Christian heritage and reliving the pilgrim tradition that has been a rich heritage documented back to medieval times.

By visiting each of the three iconic pilgrimage sites – Croagh Patrick and Knock Shrine, both in County Mayo, and Lough Derg in County Donegal – pilgrims can get their passport stamped, serving as a poignant reminder of their journey.

To further enrich the pilgrim experience, the sites will host several special events throughout Jubilee Year 2025 as well as their normal offerings to pilgrims tying into the theme of the Jubilee, "Pilgrims of Hope". These will include guided pilgrimages and retreats, talks, workshops, concerts, and exhibitions highlighting the unique history, religious and cultural significance of each location.

More information at www.pilgrimpassport.ie

Posters showing details of Lough Derg options are on display at the back of the church

POPE FRANCIS ON X

Apr 9: When Jesus gazes within us and loves us, what does He see despite our distractions and sins? Jesus sees our fragility, as well as our desire to be loved just as we are. #Catechesis <https://vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences/2025/documents/20250409-udienza-generale.html>

Apr 6: Let us #PrayTogether for peace in martyred Ukraine, in the Middle East, in Sudan and South Sudan, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in Myanmar, tried by a recent earthquake, and in Haiti, where violence continues to rage, with two religious women killed several days ago.

Apr 6: The #GospelOfTheDay (John 8:1-11) presents us with the episode of the woman caught in adultery. While the scribes and Pharisees want to stone her, Jesus restores the woman's lost beauty, and writes a new story for her.

Apr 6: The hospital room and the sickbed can also be places where we hear the voice of the Lord speak to us: "Behold, I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Is 43:19). In this way, we renew and strengthen our faith. #Jubilee

Apr 6: I have much in common with you at this time of my life, dear brothers and sisters who are sick: the experience of illness, of weakness, of having to depend on others for so many things, and of needing their support. #Jubilee

Apr 6: Dear doctors, nurses and health care workers, as you care for your patients, the Lord constantly offers you an opportunity to renew your lives through gratitude, mercy, and hope. #Jubilee

"In the here and now, may we embrace the power of his resurrection to live a godly life."

—Joni Eareckson Tada