



St Joseph's Easter Liturgy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-j3NZEaHQaI>

Let us look at the key events of The Holy Week, which will start next week:

This is a video about holy week.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qdrPhxqRP9I>

Easter Liturgy 2023

In today's liturgy, you will become more familiar with the key events of the Holy Week.

Following slides will remind us what happens on each day.

To get fully into the events of Jesus' journey, feel free to join us for the Stations of the Cross, which our Chaplaincy team put together

Palm Sunday – Jesus enters Jerusalem

- Palm Sunday is important to Christians as it remembers the day Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey during the final week of his life as recorded in the Old Testament.
- It focuses on the excitement and anticipation of the large crowds as they welcomed him by waving palm branches and calling him 'the King of the Jews' and shouting 'praise to David's Son'! The whole city was thrown into uproar at that time and many other people also began to ask 'who is he'?
- Within days however, some were crying out for his death by crucifixion! Today Christians are often given palm leaves shaped as crosses to help them remember this event in the run up to Easter.



Maundy Thursday – Last Supper

- 'Maundy' is an old word for commandment. Maundy Thursday remembers when Jesus and his disciples met to share a meal together – their last meal - as this was the night before Jesus was crucified.
- Firstly, Jesus washed his disciple's feet (a job usually done by a lowly servant). When Jesus washed his disciples' feet, he did so to show that even though he was God's Son, he had come to serve others. Because of this action, in most churches priests ceremoniously wash the feet of the people who are at the church to show that they too are the servants of God.
- Secondly, Jesus started the act of 'Holy Communion' (sometimes known as the Last Supper or the Eucharist) by sharing bread and wine with his followers. He called the bread his body, and the wine His blood and told the disciples to keep doing this act in remembrance of Him. Jesus wanted his disciples to know that this would be the last time they would be together and that he would soon die. This is why Holy Communion takes place in churches today.



Maundy Thursday: Garden of Gethsemane and Jesus' arrest

- One of Jesus' disciples Judas told the Jewish authorities where Jesus was going to be on Thursday evening. Nobody really knows why he did it but it may be because he wanted everybody to know who believed Jesus was, Jesus would have to show his power if he was in danger, or maybe the fact that he was paid thirty pieces of silver to give up his beloved teacher was enough to make Judas betray him.
- After the last supper, Jesus went for a walk in the garden of Gethsemane. He asked his disciples to watch over him. Jesus said, "The sorrow in my heart is so great that it almost crushes me. Stay here and keep watch with me." Jesus was very scared as he knew that he would be taken prisoner so he prayed to God. When he turned to the other disciples for comfort, he found that they had fallen asleep. He said to Peter, "Why couldn't you stay awake with me for just one hour?" The second time that Jesus returned, again, the disciples had fallen asleep. The third time, Jesus went off to pray and returned, they had fallen asleep again. He had never felt so alone. "Get up", he said, "the hour has come for the Son of Man to be handed over to sinners."
- Soon after, temple guards came to arrest Jesus and. Judas told the guards that the man he would kiss is Jesus. Judas went to Jesus and kisses him. Jesus' disciples tried to protect Jesus. Jesus asked the guards why they came to arrest him at night rather than in the day when he could easily be found in the temple. The guards just took Jesus off to be tried in a court.





Good Friday – Jesus' crucifixion

On this day in Holy Week Jesus was at the trial and sentenced to death. Jesus was mocked and had to walk through the streets of Jerusalem carrying the cross that he was going to be crucified on. On His way to the place where His crucifixion was to take place, Jesus was beaten badly, and a crown of thorns was placed on his head. Jesus was eventually killed by crucifixion on a cross.

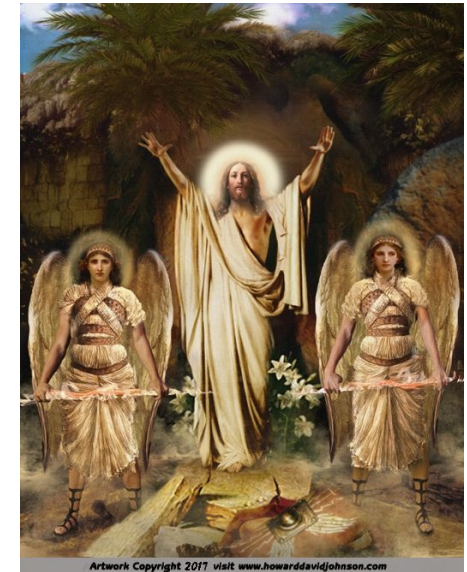
Christians often remember this by holding a silent service between the hours of 12pm and 3pm to remember his death. Christians call it 'Good' because they believe that as Jesus died for their sins; the wrath of God would not be on them anymore. For Christians, death is not the end - there is a place with God in heaven after death if they believe and trust in Him.



Easter Sunday

- This is one of the happiest days in the Christian calendar; it remembers the greatest miracle of all time – Jesus' resurrection (coming alive again) after his crucifixion! Three days after Jesus was killed, he rose from the dead. This was truly a miracle. This event made lots of people believe that Jesus was God because nobody before or since Jesus has made anybody come back to life.

- <https://youtu.be/fNFzfwLM72c>



Let's Pray

Lord, Give us the ability to say sorry when we are wrong:

Give us words that will heal the wounds that we have caused in arguing with and hurting one another;

Give us the wisdom to understand those who disagree with us;

Give us the grace to accept another's point of view.

In this hour there is new opportunity:

an opportunity to start again, to leave behind old failures, old mistakes.

*But where can we start with so many mistakes to mend?
Quarrels between friends, thoughtless words that hurt, jealousy, and pride that makes reconciliation hard.*

Lord of my life, help me today to move on and to change my life for the better as I begin next week the Holy Week. Amen

- <https://youtu.be/fNFzfwLM72c>

