



Palm Sunday – Year B

Sunday 25 March

5pm Confessions. 5.30pm Mass,
followed by refreshments.

Monday 26 March

Tuesday 27 March

Wednesday 28 March

Thurs 29 March *Maundy Thursday*

Friday 30 March *Good Friday*

Saturday 31 March *Holy Saturday & Easter Vigil*

If you need to see Fr Philip at any time, please do not hesitate to contact [him on 01524 594080](tel:01524594080) or you can try him at St Joseph's parish on [01524 32493](tel:0152432493) or email p.conner@lancaster.ac.uk – always happy to meet up if you need some help or counsel.

Mass times during the Easter Holidays. Today is the last Mass of term; Masses will resume on Sunday 15 April. Through the holidays, Mass will be available in the surrounding parishes. For the *Triduum* Celebrations, please check the parish websites: Good Friday service is always at 3pm but the Easter Vigil Mass may be at different times in different parishes. If you would like to come to the one at St Joseph's (which is Fr Philip's parish) at 8.30pm on Saturday night at St Joseph's, please sign up at the back of the church so that we can arrange a taxi together.

- St Peter's Cathedral, Balmoral Rd, Lancaster LA1 3BT. Saturday Vigil 6.30pm, Sunday morning 10.30am, Sunday evening 6.30pm. Weekdays at 12.15pm. www.lancastercathedral.org.uk
- St Bernadette's, 120 Bowerham Rd, Lancaster LA1 4HT. Saturday Vigil 6.30pm, Sunday morning 11am.
- St Joseph's, Slyne Road, Skerton LA1 2HU. Saturday Vigil 6.30pm, Sunday morning 10.00am. www.stjosephs-lancaster.co.uk

During the holidays, Fr Philip can continue to be contacted through St Joseph's parish: 01524 32493.

Today we enter into the holiest week of the year. Holy Week is the heart of our faith. Attending all the different events – Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, the Passion on Good Friday, the emptiness of Holy Saturday, and finally the celebration of Easter breaking into our world at the Easter Vigil – is what makes our faith make sense. Holy Week is what makes us Christian, and we need it every year. Through the ages countless martyrs have died for this faith, even here in Lancaster. Now, it is our turn to walk together to Jerusalem to share in Christ's Hour.

Maundy Thursday. 'Maundy' comes from the Latin word, 'mandatum' and it relates to Christ washing the feet of the disciples and his 'command' to love as He has loved. In this celebration, we celebrate three things: the institution of the Eucharist, the institution of the Priesthood, and, Christ's command of brotherly love. Maundy Thursday evening Mass includes the ceremony of the washing of feet. At the end, you are invited to journey to the side altar which becomes the Garden of Gethsemane, and remain there with the Lord in silence and adoration.

Good Friday. The 3pm service begins with the priest lying prostrate on the floor, symbolising the grief and sorrow of the Church, the hour at which Christ died. The service includes the ancient ritual of the *creeping of the cross*, where everyone is invited to reverence the wood of the cross.

Holy Saturday. Emptiness, desolation, absence. Jesus lies in the tomb, dead. He descends into the underworld, uniting himself totally with our mortality. This is a day to spend with Our Lady who waited in grief, and in hope.

The Easter Vigil. This vigil is the mother of all holy vigils, quite unlike anything else. The darkness of the night is broken by the light of the paschal candle which is lit from a bonfire. The Mass begins in candlelight, includes readings which take us through the whole history of salvation, and then the renewal of our baptismal vows. The Church will be filled with joy, light, and life after the length of Lent.

Divine Mercy Sunday on Sunday 8 April. Devotions in Lancaster Cathedral from 2pm. Everyone welcome.

HAVE A GOOD HOLIDAY!