



St Peter's Church, Surry Hills

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Fr. John Macdonald, Administrator

Fr. Nicola Falzun OP, Priest in Residence for the *Missio ad gentes* of the Neocatechumenal Way

We Pray For:

Our sick and injured: Fr. Bill Milsted, Bro. Max Scully, fsc, Daniel Vieira, Maria de Los Angeles ('Angelines') Agudo, Nerisa Williams, Josephine Finneran, Ana Teresa Rodrigues, Mafalda Triolo, Aimi McEwen, Louise McCann, Marija Barclay, John Yo-un, Dan Southee, Matic (baby).

Our deceased: Ana Ofelia Sierra Bustamante (22/3/2020) Indhira's mum), Robert Azzopardi (Pauline's nephew), Grace Maralyn Molyneux (13/3), Lina Mangion (26/2), Moira Welch, Bennett Alexander Schwartz, Sebastian Gomes, Neville Stapleton, Damien Carroll ((31/1), Julian Ciappara (28/1), Frederick, Edward & Margaret M Hailwood, Margaret D Hailwood, Joyce Hailwood & Marge Heaney, Joan McEvoy and June Veronica Hailwood, Philomena Smith (11/3),.

Our house bound elderly: Shirley Kennedy, Anna Maria, Myra Krcma

HOLY WEEK LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday Masses:

9:00am (Please take a palm from the basket on your way into the church)

10:30am (The Liturgy begins at the Marian Shrine in the courtyard at 10:30 and then proceeds to the church for the commencement of Mass)

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday as usual (7:30am, 10:00am & 10:00am respectively)

Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper

8:00pm

Good Friday

Stations of the Cross

10:00am

Reconciliation:

11:00am to 12noon

Celebration of the Passion of the Lord

3:00pm

Holy Saturday

Reconciliation:

11:00am to 12noon

The Church waits at the Lord's tomb, in prayer and fasting, for his Resurrection

Easter Vigil Mass begins at 8:00pm Saturday night at the Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians in the courtyard.

Easter Sunday Mass

10:00am

Partaking in the Eucharist commits us to others, especially the poor, teaching us to pass from the flesh of Christ to the flesh of our brothers and sisters, in whom he waits to be recognised, served, honoured and loved by us.

Pope Francis
Catechesis on the Mass 2018

Parish Update: COVID positive cases – there have been several additional positive cases within the parish. We encourage mask wearing and social distancing if possible.

7 Palm Sunday traditions at Mass and their symbolism - [Philip Kosloski](#), 24/03/21

A brief look at a few popular Palm Sunday traditions celebrated in the Roman Rite.



Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion marks the beginning of Holy Week, the final week of preparation before the feast of Easter. **In the Roman Rite, the celebration of Mass has particular traditions that make it look much different than a typical Sunday Mass.** Many of these traditions are centuries old, having roots in the early Church, based on the events that occur in

the Gospel passages. The differences are meant to enrich our celebration of Jesus' Passion, immersing us into the events in a unique way to help our souls ponder the beauty and riches of the Paschal mystery.

Here are 7 of these traditions and the symbolism behind them.

Why does Mass begin with a procession?

Besides imitating Jesus' procession into Jerusalem, the sanctuary of the church is naturally a place that symbolize heaven, with the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

Furthermore, often the sanctuary is elevated by a number of steps. This too has symbolism, lifting up our eyes (and hearts) to God, but also **reminding us of Jesus' ascent to Mount Calvary.** The priest assumes this role and ascends to a "mystical" Mount Calvary to offer the sacrifice of the Mass, participating in the one sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

Why palms or other plants are used for the procession

Biblical scholars often translate the branches people used for Jesus' triumphal entry in generic terms, such as in the Gospel of Matthew, "The very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, **while others cut branches from the trees** and strewed them on the road" (Matthew 21:8).

In essence, when palm branches are not available, **it is perfectly acceptable to find any type of suitable branch** to help commemorate Palm Sunday.

The branches are meant to be a symbolic gesture, **symbolizing the need to lay down our hearts before Jesus**, allowing him access into our inmost being. This is why, even if you don't have branches of any sort for your celebration, you can still participate in the spiritual theme of Palm Sunday.

Why does the priest wear red?

Red is the colour of blood and symbolizes love, fire, passion, and the blood of sacrifice. Red is worn on Palm Sunday, Good Friday, any day related to Jesus' Passion, on Pentecost and on the feast days of those who died for the faith (martyrs).

Why are statues and images veiled?

It seems strange that during the most sacred time of year **Catholics cover everything that is beautiful in their churches, even the crucifix**. Shouldn't we be looking at the painful scene at Calvary while we listen to the Passion narrative on Palm Sunday?

While it may appear counterintuitive to veil statues and images during the final weeks of Lent, the Catholic Church recommends this practice to **heighten our senses** and build within us a longing for Easter Sunday. It is a tradition that should not only be carried out in our local parish, but can also be a fruitful activity for the "domestic church" to practice.

Why is the Gospel reading so long?

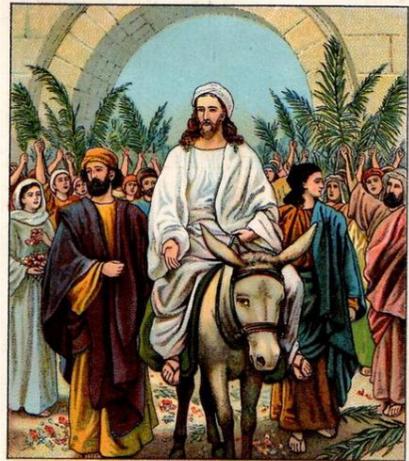
For Roman Catholics, the weekly Sunday Mass readings are extremely short when compared to the Passion narrative that is recited (or sung) every year on Palm Sunday. This makes Palm Sunday somewhat difficult to attend for those who have trouble standing for the entire Gospel proclamation.

However, did you know that every Sunday may have been like that in the early Church? Many of the first Christians were Jewish, and so, not surprisingly, they modelled their liturgy on the synagogue services. This included a continuous reading of Sacred Scripture that was carried on from one week to the next. It was divided up into two separate readings, one from the "Law" and the other from the "Prophets."

Why does the congregation participate in the Passion reading?

Holy Week is the most sacred time in the Church's liturgical calendar, entirely focused on Jesus' Passion, death, and resurrection. A recurrent theme throughout the week is a call to accompany Jesus during this most painful part of his life on earth.

Palm Sunday opens Holy Week with a solemn recitation of Jesus' Passion, and typically this involves each person having a role. When celebrated in a church, the parishioners often take the role of the crowd. This culminates in the entire congregation saying, "**Crucify him! Crucify him!**" In this instance we recognize the role **our sins** have in Jesus' crucifixion and how Jesus suffered and died for us, even though we weren't even born yet.

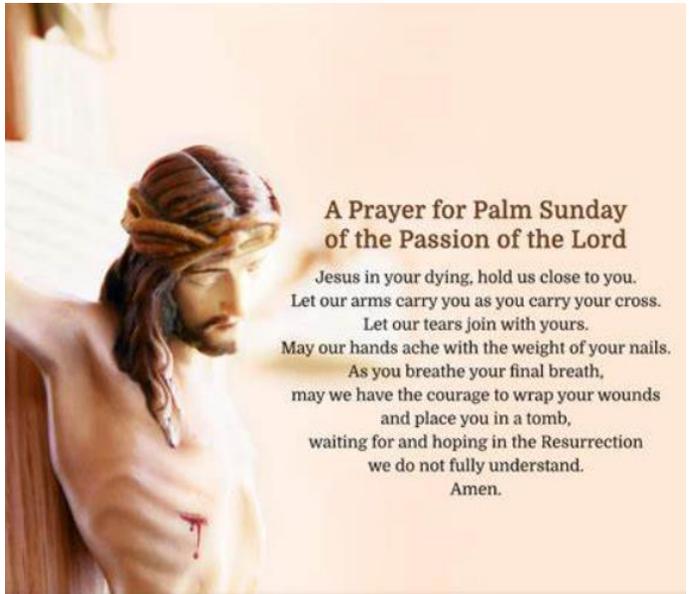


What should I do with my blessed palms?

After leaving church on Sunday, you may have come home with several long palm branches from the celebration of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

You may be asking yourself, "Well, what should I do with these?" Whatever you do, don't throw them away!

According to the *Code of Canon Law*, blessed items are not to be discarded in a trash can, but treated with respect (cf. #1171). At Mass these palm branches were set apart by a blessing from the priest and made into a "sacramental," an object that is meant to draw us closer to the celebration of the seven sacraments. Throwing them in the trash ignores their sacred purpose and treats them like any other object we no longer need.



Lenten nostalgia helps pass on the faith: Tom Hoopes, 04/04/22

To pass on the faith we need to reinstate Catholic practices, scholars say. I know what Lenten practices did for me.

I'm a nostalgia junkie at Christmas but also in [Lent](#). And if you want to pass on the faith, you should be, too. Research backs me up.

My colleague, sociologist Karen Wood, along with Franciscan Martyrs of St. George Sister M. Clare O'Connor, presented on the way the Catholic practices feed your faith at the recent Symposium on Transforming Culture at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas.

What the hierarchy of the Church does is important, but "As the family goes, so goes the Church," said Sister O'Connor.

Our family's Catholic practices stick to us, building the faith into our souls, ready to rekindle at a moment's notice.

I think that's why a number of celebrities recently mentioned their Catholic upbringing.

Action movie star (and former California governor) Arnold Schwarzenegger [said](#) his Catholic memories make him try to be a servant leader. Guitar hero Tom Morello said his

Catholic upbringing [was why](#) he practiced guitar so much as a child. Director Greta Gerwig made the movie *Lady Bird* in part as a homage to her memories of Catholic school in the 1990s. And I still remember legendary film critic Roger Ebert's review of *The Passion of the Christ* when the film was first released.

"Anyone raised as a Catholic will be familiar with the stops along the way," he wrote. "The screenplay is inspired not so much by the Gospels as by the 14 Stations of the Cross."

His experiences as an altar boy never left him, and he still remembers the Stabat Mater, he said:

"At the Cross, her station keeping ...
Stood the mournful Mother weeping ...
Close to Jesus to the last."

He claimed the [Stations](#) weren't a "deeply spiritual experience" for him. I think he's wrong. They settled in his soul and stayed with him for decades, returning as soon as he saw our Lord's Passion honored in a movie.

That's what happens to all of us, said Wood.

Citing [Pillar research](#) and Russell Shaw's book on the [American Church](#), she said that in the past "ethnic identity and Catholic identity were essentially the same thing." But then the faith faded "as parents, catechists and the Church dropped the 'cultural' ball of teaching and practicing the faith, we inevitably watered down the meaning of the 'Catholic' label."

To pass on the faith we need to reinstate Catholic practices, she said. I know what Lenten practices did for me.

In [Lent](#), the big ones are the Ash Wednesday ashes that you wear like a badge of honor if you're feeling holy, or are tempted to wipe off if you're feeling sheepish, and the Palm Sunday palms that you sword fight with when you're little and tickle your sister's nose with when you're bigger. But the small things we do in Lent shape us, too.

Giving up candy for Lent is a small price to pay for spiritual greatness, but I achieved it. I also remember the sinking feeling when I failed and thinking, "Who would give up their soul for the whole world? But I gave mine up for Skittles." It was so freeing to learn that it isn't even a sin to eat the thing you gave up for Lent — it's just a failure of a personal voluntary practice. That made it so much easier to keep Lenten resolutions, somehow.

Research shows that the faith stays when it is expressed in sacramentals and song, devotions and popular piety, said Karen Wood.

There are things only Catholics know, like the mystical connection that transforms your disappointment at fish-sticks-and-rice into something holy, because it is a Friday offering. Only Catholics know [how thrilling a ham sandwich can be](#) when a Solemnity falls on a Friday.

And only Catholics know the miracle parents witness at each Stations of the Cross. It should be the hardest event of the week to control your children — the worst possible time of the worst possible weekday to go to church with kids. But I have noticed that my own children, and the ones I see at our parish, never need disciplining.

They are quiet and attentive, because Jesus Christ is struggling to his death, and they know he deserves our quiet and attention.

And like Roger Ebert, they will never forget it.

Lenten Prayer

O Lord and Master of my life!
Take from me the spirit of laziness,
faint-heartedness, desire for power, and idle talk.

But give your servant
the spirit of chastity,
humility, patience, and love.

Yes, Lord and King!
Grant me to see my own errors
and not to unjustly or hastily judge my brother,
for you are blessed, now and forever. Amen.

Source: Lenten Prayer of [St. Ephrem the Syrian](#)



Guide to Holy Week



Palm Sunday

Sunday before Easter. Celebration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Observed with palm branches, parades, and celebration.



Maundy Thursday

Thursday before Easter. Commemorates the Last Supper. Often observed with foot washing, stripping of the altar, and overnight prayer vigil to keep watch with Jesus in the garden.



Good Friday

Friday before Easter. Most solemn day of the church year. Observes the day Jesus was crucified. Observed by praying the Stations of the Cross and three hours of silent prayer while Jesus was on the cross.



Holy Saturday

Saturday before Easter. Observes the day Jesus was in the tomb. This is a day of somber reflection, reflecting on what we'd miss in a world without Jesus.



Easter Sunday

Hallelujah! Christ has risen! This day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Sing hallelujahs and celebrate with great joy.



About the Relic of St Faustina

24 APRIL 2022 DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - SAINT FAUSTINA FIRST CLASS RELIC TOUR - The **Divine Mercy**, is a Catholic Devotion based on the revelations of our Lord Jesus to mankind through **Saint Faustina Kowalska**, an uneducated Polish nun who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a Diary of about 600 pages recording the revelations she received about God's mercy. Jesus appeared and asked her to be the Secretary of Mercy.

St Faustina First Class Relic from Poland will be available for the veneration of the Faithful during Divine Mercy Sunday on **24 APRIL 2022 after 9am and 10:30am mass** **Please bring your Divine Mercy Image which will be solemnly blessed by Fr. John Macdonald.** Contact **Angeline 0431718137.**

The information we have for the Relic of St Faustina is the following:

- It arrived to Australia on April 26, 2011.
- It was presented and venerated on a solemn ceremony during the Divine Mercy Sunday, 01 May 2011.
- The Main Celebrant for the Divine Mercy Sunday and official presentation of the Relic was Bishop Terence Brady.

This Relic was requested by the Divine Mercy Life Inc. Team led by the late Ruby Madera. St Ambrose Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Brian Egan through the assistance of Archbishop of Sydney, George Pell was instrumental in procuring the relic from Sanctuary Faustinum.

Divine Mercy Team members Stasia and Gabe Very collected it from Poland. The Relic was endorsed to Divine Mercy Life Inc. as a steward and that it must enhance the work of Divine Mercy throughout Australia.

The Message of St Ignatia is as follows:

MESSAGE as recorded in Polish by Sister Ignatia from Poland on 20/04/11 (our time early morning 21/04/11 from Sactuary Faustinum, Krakow Poland as relic handed to Gabe and Stasia Very (from Sydney Australia).

"Dear People (brothers and sisters),

With great joy I share with you this great gift of God of the relic of Saint Faustina in union with Our Lady of Mercy for public veneration.

Our Faustinum Sanctuary commissions you and sends forth the graces attached to this relic to the Parish of St Ambrose – (Swentego Ambrozego tak?) with heartfelt best wishes that you will embrace Saint Faustina relic as through her intercession the Lord pours out beautiful and wonderful fruits (graces) upon you and all the people of the Parish of St Ambrose and its surrounds, for your city and the whole of Australia."

