

St. Peter's Hamilton

Palm Sunday (A)

29th March 2026

Our Parish Mission

All are welcome in this place

Behold Love's amazing grace

All are welcome

Bring your hopes, bring your dreams

Mercy flows and love redeems

It's Thursday 6.10am

We have had a busy week here in the parish. It will be the same next week. Please keep me in your prayers for the week or so ahead. I really would appreciate that.

And can you believe there were flakes of snow yesterday. Wow!

First Confessions:

30 Children made their First Confession this week. They were all amazing. their singing was brilliant.

I have to thank a few people Ms. Keating, Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Gallagher from St. Peters. Mrs. Barrie, Mrs Cummings & Mrs Watson from St. Mark's for all their help in preparing

the children for receiving the sacrament.

Food Bank:

I want to thank everyone who handed in to the Food Bank this week. Your kindness is amazing. This weekend will be the last weekend you can hand in Easter Eggs, so they can be given out for next weekend.

Extra Confessions:

There will be an plenty of opportunity for you to go to Confession before Easter.

Fr. O'Farrell will be here: Weds 6.30pm - 7.30pm

I will be up in Our Lady & St. Anne's:

Weds 6.30pm - 7.30pm

Palm Sunday is celebrated on the Sunday before Easter each year and marks the start of Holy Week. But what is the actual significance of this Holy Day, and how does it play a part in the greater story of Christ's life, death, and resurrection?

The Palm Sunday Account

Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem with His disciples to celebrate Passover. When they reached the Mount of Olives, He sent two of the disciples to retrieve a donkey colt for Him to ride. He instructed them to untie it, and if anyone asked them why they were doing so, to tell them that the Master has need of it. They did as He instructed, and brought the colt to Him, laying their cloaks over it for Him

to sit on it.

As He rode into the city, people spread their cloaks and palm branches in the road, proclaiming, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” The spectacle attracted the attention of those in the city, and many wondered who He was.

The entry into Jerusalem is documented in all four gospels, with slight variations in each account.

Today, the celebration of Palm Sunday opens Holy Week. The priest blesses palms and distributes them to the congregation. The palms are either kept and used as a reminder of Christ’s victory throughout the year, or are burned and used as the ashes for the next year’s Ash Wednesday service.

This Weeks Readings

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-7

The Lord’s Servant will stand firm, even when persecuted.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 22:8-9,17-20,23-24

A cry for help to the Lord in the face of evildoers

Second Reading

Philippians 2:6-11

Christ was obedient even to death, and God has exalted him.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 26:14–27:66

Jesus is crucified, and his body is placed in the tomb.
(shorter form: Matthew 27:11-54)

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we begin Holy Week, the days during which we journey with Jesus on his way of the cross and anticipate his Resurrection on Easter. Today's liturgy begins with the procession with palms to remind us of Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem.

The events of Jesus' Passion are proclaimed in their entirety in today's Liturgy of the Word. Those events will be proclaimed again when we celebrate the liturgies of the Triduum—Holy Thursday's Mass of the Lord's Supper, the Good Friday of the Lord's Passion, and the Easter Vigil. In communities that celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation with catechumens, these liturgies take on special importance because they invite the catechumens and the community to enter together into the central mysteries of our faith. These days are indeed profound and holy.

In Cycle A, we read the Passion of Jesus as found in the Gospel of Matthew on Palm, or Passion, Sunday. (On Good Friday, we will read the Passion of Jesus from the Gospel of John). The story of Jesus' Passion and death in Matthew's Gospel focuses particularly on the obedience of Jesus to the will of his Father. As Jesus sends his disciples to prepare for Passover, he indicates that the events to come are the will of the Father (Matthew 26:18). In Jesus' prayer in the garden, he prays three times to the Father to take away the cup of suffering, but each time, Jesus concludes by

affirming his obedience to the Father's will (Matthew 26:39-44). Even Matthew's description of Jesus' death shows Jesus' obedience to the Father.

Another theme of Matthew's Gospel is to show Jesus as the fulfillment of Scripture. Throughout the Passion narrative, Matthew cites and alludes to Scripture to show that the events of Jesus' Passion and death are in accordance with all that was foretold. And if the events were foretold, then God is in control. In addition, Matthew is particularly concerned that the reader does not miss the fact that Jesus is the Suffering Servant of the Old Testament.

Jesus acts in obedience to the Father even in death, so that sins may be forgiven. Matthew makes this clear in the story of the Lord's Supper. As Jesus blesses the chalice, he says: ". . . for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins."

(Matthew 26:28)

While the Gospels of Matthew and Mark have many parallels in their narrative of the Passion, there are a few details worth noting that are unique to Matthew. Only Matthew indicates the price paid to Judas for betraying Jesus. The story of Judas's death is also found only in Matthew, as is the detail that Pilate's wife received a warning in a dream and that Pilate washed his hands of Jesus' death. Finally, Matthew's Gospel alone mentions the earthquakes and other phenomena that happened after Jesus' death.

Matthew places the responsibility for Jesus' death on the Sanhedrin, the chief priests and elders who were

responsible for the Temple. However, the animosity that those Jewish leaders and the Jewish people demonstrate toward Jesus is not to be interpreted in ways that blame the Jewish people for Jesus' death. Throughout Matthew's Gospel, the narrative reflects the tension that probably existed between the early Christian community and their Jewish contemporaries. At the Second Vatican Council, the Council Fathers made clear that all sinners share responsibility for the suffering and death of Jesus and that it is wrong to place blame for Jesus' Passion on the Jewish contemporaries of Jesus or on Jewish people today.

There are many vantage points from which to engage in Jesus' Passion. In the characters of Matthew's Gospel, we find reflections of ourselves and the many ways in which we sometimes respond to Jesus. Sometimes we are like Judas, who betrays Jesus and comes to regret it. We are sometimes like Peter, who denies him, or like the disciples, who fell asleep during Jesus' darkest hour but then act rashly and violently at his arrest. Sometimes we are like Simon, who is pressed into service to help Jesus carry his cross. Sometimes we are like the leaders who fear Jesus or like Pontius Pilate, who washed his hands of the whole affair. Jesus dies so that our sins will be forgiven.

The events of Jesus' Passion, death, and Resurrection are called the Paschal Mystery. No amount of study will exhaust or explain the depth of love that Jesus showed in offering this sacrifice for us. After we have examined and studied the stories we have received about these events, we are

left with one final task—to meditate on these events and on the forgiveness that Jesus' obedience won for us.

Next Weeks Mass Programme

Monday 8.15am Mass

Tuesday : 8.15am & 10am Masses

Wednesday: 10am

Holy Thursday

10am Morning Prayer

11am Chrism Mass Motherwell Cathedral

7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

8.30pm Night Prayer

Good Friday:

10am: Morning Prayer

12noon: Stations of the Cross, Holy Communion &
Veneration of the Cross

3pm: Celebration of the Lord's Passion

6pm: Stations of the Cross, Holy Communion &
Veneration of the Cross

Holy Saturday:

10am: Morning Prayer

8pm: The Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday:

9.30am & 11am Masses

Holy Week/Easter Week Programme Sheet will be given out
at the end of all the Masses this weekend

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Tues- Weds 9.30am - 9.55am

Extra Confessions Next Week

Tuesday & Wednesday

9.30-9.50am

6pm-7pm

Wednesday

9.30-9.50am

6.30pm- 7.30pm (Fr. O'Farrell)

Sunday Rota

This Weekend

Readers

4pm Vigil: J. McCluskey & B. Cornes (Passion)

9.30am: T. Kennedy & P. Davies (Passion)

11am: D. Lee & L. McIntosh (Passion)

Readers And Eucharistic Ministers

Could you please let me know what Masses you will be
coming to on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy
Saturday and Easter Sunday. Contact me on

frking@rcdom.org.uk. Please don't tell me in person or
I will forget lol

**We are looking for new readers for all the
Sunday Masses. If you wish to volunteer please
see Fr. Frank.**

Eucharistic Ministers:

4pm Vigil: A. Conway, A. Gebbie & E. Gold
9.30am: C, Bonnar, M. Devanney & K. O'Neill
11am: K. Flynn, S. Russell & K. Grant

This Weekday 10am Mass Readers Rota

Tuesday: P. Davies
Wednesday: B. Cornes

Please pray for the following:

Sick:

**Margaret Callaghan Doreen Cleary, Neil Boyle,
John Rielly Molly Strang, James Clark,
Fr. Michael McLaughlin, Patricia Henderson,
Joanna Maier (Connecticut USA), Therese Gilgunn Tressy
Callaghan, Suzanne McMurray,
Mary Coyle, Lesley Watson (Spain) Maureen McHugh,
Margaret Burke, Marie White, Kathleen Daly,
John McGuire, Jill Brown, Karen Pritchatt,
Louise Newton, Faith Lyndsey, Jill Brown,**

Marie McGuire, James Morton, Paul Kearney,
Thomas Daly, Andrew McCluskey,
Premature Baby Vincent McDowell,
Bill Allan, Gudren Berk (Germany),
Jaqueline McReynolds, Mary Morrison, Helen Howarth
(Easterhouse), Margaret Loan, Avril McCluskey, Elizabeth
Miller, Carol Corr Peter McGilvary,
Robert Smith and all our sick.

Recently Dead: Helen Hilson, Margaret McAuley, Marion
Ward, Janet McCready (Cardowan), Mary Woods, Hugh
Urquhart, Irene Marshall.

Month Minds & Anniversaries: Tracey Archibald,
John Lyons, Dennis Brown Snr., Dennis Brown Jnr.,
Mamie Brown, John Corns, Stephen McHugh,
Canon Dennis Keane, The McLean Family,
The Moran Family, The McLaughlin Family,
The Leary Family, Anne Mackie, Baby Noah,
Catianna Darragh, Helen Findlater, Gerald Jamieson,
Scott Walsh.

Please if you could make sure all month minds and
anniversaries are handed in no later than Wednesday Night.

If they come in after that they will be read out at Mass on Sunday. If the recently dead come in after the Wednesday deadline they too will be read out at Mass on the Sunday.

Funeral Arrangements:

Helen Hilson

Thursday 9th April Reception 6pm

Friday 10th April Funeral Mass 10am

A wee reminder that the clocks go forward this weekend.

Defibrillator

A Defibrillator has arrived and will be installed in our front car park. The Scottish Ambulance Service Training will take place on Tuesday 5th May 2026 from 6pm-8pm. If you are interesting in the training contact Fr. Frank asap. It will open to be used by the whole community.

Powerpoint Remote Control:

I am also looking for Volunteers to move the power-points on during the Sunday Masses, Vigil 4pm, 9.30am & 11am.

It is very easy to operate, if we get enough volunteers for each Mass we would put a wee rota together. It would take a wee bit of pressure off me.

Bongo Bingo

Friday 24th April 2026

Price of Tickets £15

In aid of The John Fallon Fund for building a school in South Sudan.

This is a great charity to support. It will help so many children to get an education.

The school will be called "The 12th Lion."

See Anne Frances

Gift Aid

If you wish to sign up for Gift Aid. It is a great way to help the parish financially, costing you absolutely nothing. If you wish to sign up contact myself or Doreen Lee and we will give you the form and hand it back as you can and we can get it organised. As I said it costs you nothing, but helps the parish so much.

Baptism/Wedding Meetings: THURSDAY 6pm & 7pm. JUST
TURN UP

The Bulletin is available by email

I can't thank you enough for your generosity to the Parish. I really appreciate it. Please keep it up, Once again Thank You.

Fr. Frank

