

salvation. Secondly, Christ's Passion set us an example of obedience, humility, constancy, justice and other virtues which are necessary for our salvation. In the letter of Peter (1: 2:21) it says: *"..Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps"*. Among other reasons, Aquinas says that *"..as man was overcome and deceived by the devil, so also it should be a man that should overthrow the devil; and as man deserved death, so a man by dying should vanquish death. Hence it is written (1 Corinthians 15:57): "Thanks be to God who hath given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." It was accordingly more fitting that we should be delivered by Christ's Passion than simply by God's good-will."*

An extract from the Easter Proclamation in the Roman Missal beautifully reflects Christ's redemption of us through the Cross: *"Our birth would have been no gain, had we not been redeemed. O wonder of your humble care for us! O love, O charity beyond all telling, to ransom a slave you gave away your Son! O truly necessary sin of Adam, destroyed completely by the Death of Christ! O happy fault that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer!"*
-Stephen S

Entrance Antiphon: Six days before the Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they carried palm branches and with a loud voice cried out: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

Responsorial Psalm: 21 **Response:** My God my God, why have you forsaken me?

Second Reading: Philippians: 2:6-11

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Christ was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all names. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Gospel: Mark 14: 1-15:47

Memorial Acclamation: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

Communion Antiphon: Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, Cycle B, 2024 Weekly Reflection:

From Suffering to Redemption: (3) Redemption: The prophet Isaiah foretold the suffering of the Messiah when he said (53:12):

"..he poured out his soul to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many...". This is reflected in the Acts of the Apostles (3:18): *"...what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ should suffer..."*. And Jesus Himself said (Matthew 20:28) that the Son of Man had come to give His life as a ransom. Later, after His death, and on the road to Emmaus, He said to the two disciples that it had been written that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in His name to all nations. This, the Catechism of the Catholic Church ("CCC") refers to as the divine plan of salvation and mystery of universal redemption. Redemption through Jesus comes from His example of humanity without sin, His repairing of the bond between God and man which had been broken in the Garden of Eden and His victory over death by His glorious resurrection. Redemption is therefore the act by which Jesus saved us from the slavery of sin by His sacrificial death on the cross. Redemption is Christ liberating us from an old life of sin to freedom of a new life in Him.

The question why Jesus suffered for the redemption of mankind is not an easy one. It was addressed in some detail by St Thomas Aquinas in his Summa Theologica III (Q46 Art 1-3). This is the gist of Aquinas' reasoning. It would have been possible for God to redeem us by means other than the Passion of Christ. However, the Passion was in keeping with God's mercy and justice. Aquinas quotes St Augustine who said that there was no other suitable way of healing than by the Passion. He continues that many other things besides deliverance from sin came together for our salvation through the Passion. First, it showed how much God loves us, such that we should thereby be encouraged to love Him in return and so receive the grace of His



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24- March-2024

Eucharistic Prayer – II or III

Palm Sunday of the Passion of our Lord. (Blessing of Palms at all Mases)

R.C DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY REG. CHARITY No.234025

Saturday (Vigil) 6.00pm

Sunday 8.30am Parishioners

10:00am (Procession from the Parish Hall)

Monday 10.00am Kate Delany (Intentions)

Tuesday 9.30am

Wednesday 9.30am

Holy Thursday 7.00pm Washing of the feet and the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper.

Good Friday 3.00pm The Celebration of the Lord's Passion and veneration of the cross.

Holy Saturday 7.00pm Easter vigil & First Mass of Easter

Easter Sunday 8.30am Catherine Ipsan

10.00am Parishioners

Palm Sunday of the Passion of our Lord marks the beginning of Holy Week—the most sacred time of the year for Christians. On this Sunday we commemorate the triumphant entry of Christ into Jerusalem with the blessing of palm branches. This celebration reminds us of two things: our willingness to follow Jesus and welcoming Him into our hearts.

Good Friday: Congregation will be invited for a genuflection or a deep bow.

Good Friday Offerings: Good Friday offerings provide a big annual support to the Church in the Holy Land. **Holy Saturday:** The Service will start outside the church with the blessing of new fire.

The red framed notice in the porch lists the services and readings for Holy Week. **Please sign your name if you can volunteer for readings or the washing of feet** on Holy Thursday. **NEW READERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.**

Ecumenical Good Friday Walk of Witness: Starts at the AE Methodist Church at 10.30am and walks to St Philip and St James church.

Family Fast and Lenten offerings: There is opportunity for generous giving from the fast for which CAFOD envelopes are available at the back of the Church. These can be returned via collection plates or sent directly to CAFOD's head office. Donations can be done online at www.cafod.org.uk/lent or by using a CAFOD envelope.

Lenten Alms can be offered in the church wall box marked -Lenten Alms.

Gift Aid Envelopes: The envelopes for the tax year 2024/25 are available for collection in the church porch. Please do not use until April 7th and please use the correct dated envelope for the week you are giving.

Attention all Gift Aid Donors: The tax year 2023/24 has ended and the Parish will soon be undertaking the process of claiming back the Gift Aid refunds on donations made in the tax year. If your circumstances have changed and you no longer pay income tax (or if for any other reason you do not wish to remain in the Gift Aid Scheme) please let Fr. Mathew or Louise Jones know as soon as possible, otherwise it will be assumed you have paid sufficient income tax for the Parish to reclaim Gift Aid on donations made in the last tax year.

Church Offertory and Gift Aid Explained: If you pay tax and are not in the Gift Aid Scheme you could help the parish by enrolling. For every £1.00 you donate HMRC gives the parish 25p. All that it involves is giving your name and address on a Gift Aid declaration form. No other details are required. There is no minimum amount or fixed amount, you don't have to give every week and you can stop or start as you like. The only stipulation is that the money has to be placed in a Gift Aid envelope or, preferably to save the volunteer counters' time, paid by standing order or cheque. If you would like to join the Gift Aid Scheme, please contact Father Mathew or Louise Jones.