

**Thought for the week
Palm Sunday
28th March, 2021**

Lord Jesus Christ,
our Divine Physician,
we ask you to guard and protect us
and all people from the
coronavirus and all serious illness.
For all who have died from it ,
have mercy;
For all who are ill now,
bring healing;
For all searching for a remedy,
enlighten them;
For medical caregivers, helping the sick,
strengthen and shield them;
For all working to contain the spread,
grant them success;
For those afraid,
grant peace of mind.
By your grace,
may you turn the evil of disease
into moments of consolation and hope.
We abandon ourselves into your
infinite mercy.
Amen.

Today begins the most important week of the Church's year – we journey together towards the glory of the cross.

Judy and I have many memories of Holy Week in Africa and Asia and the large overflowing churches. A contrast was one Easter in the middle of the Sahara and Mass with just two solitary French monks in the Hermitage of Blessed Charles de Foucauld in the Hoggar Mountains. Charles was martyred near there in 1916.

This Holy Week at St Michael's will again be different with numbers rationed because of Covid 19, but also with the remarkable facility of being able to follow online. It is a holy and sacred time in which we deepen our understanding and enter the mystery and glory of the cross.

Let us start the week with the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Monday at 7 pm and perhaps come to Mass on Tuesday or Wednesday if we are not able to come later in the week.

Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper is at 7 pm and Good Friday follows with the Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3 pm.

The Holy Saturday service (brought forward in our Church to 8 pm and shortened because of Covid)) is very special. It will begin this year with the Lighting of the Paschal Candle and is followed with the very special Liturgy of the Word, the Renewal of Baptismal Promises, and culminates in the first Mass of Easter and the Glory of the Resurrection.

As we journey through Holy Week and look at the cross, do we see a God who pours out his life for us? Do we choose to believe that from the mess and seeming devastation of our lives, God will be victorious; and can we proclaim that to the world?

Stephen and Judy



Prayers Please

Please pray for Ted Cotter (brother of Philomena) who died last Sunday.

Please pray for Rita Lonsdale.

Maddy Sharman has asked for our prayers.

Vera Bird has asked for our prayers for her Great, Great Grandson Harry

Please pray for Cecilia Fung, the mother of Fr Jojo. She has had a stroke.

Prayers please for Antonita's nephew Peppin who remains in hospital due to the coronavirus.

Please pray for Caroline Mikhail (daughter - in - law of Jane and Ramsay Mikhail) who suffered a stroke.

Please pray for Peter Halter's sister Jean who has macular degeneration and for Jean's great grandson Rogan who is 8 and has leukemia. Rogan continues to need our prayers.

Please pray for children under stress.

Please pray for the residents and staff at the two nursing homes in our parish, Abbeycrest and St Luke's.

Please pray for all victims of the Coronavirus.



Please also remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time including;

Nan and Larry Maxwell and Family, Sarah Bardon, Mary Gardner, Liam Treacey, Kevin Cotter, Eileen Foley, Cedric Baring-Gould, Joseph Anthony Melling, Mary Burns, Derek Graham, Flora Bradley, Gerry Buck, Bernard Lobo, Jim Roginski,