

The Great Week

Holy Week comes as the climax of the 40 days of Lent which began on Ash



Wednesday. Those who took the ashes on their foreheads agreed to spend six weeks trying to deepen their relationship with

God by prayer, fasting and good works.

The Thursday, Friday and Saturday immediately before Easter, the three days which changed the world, are called the Triduum, meaning a “three day” feast, - an extended preparation for the great event of Easter. Christians try to be present on each day – it is like the three acts of a play.

On Maundy Thursday evening, the night that Jesus was betrayed, we celebrate the eucharist, the summit of Christian activity. We use some of the symbols of the Passover meal to recall that Christ died so that we might be saved for a fuller life. The bread which we eat is Christ’s own body - he is the bread of life, the meaning of our existence. The wine is his blood - shed on the cross for us so that evil can no longer hold sway over us. The foot-washing is a re-enacting of what Christ did for his disciples at the Last Supper and also a symbol of our need to be at the service of each other.



On Good Friday afternoon, the solemn proclamation of the Passion fulfils the prophets’ message that one man would take upon himself all the ills of the world and give it hope. We pray for that world and its peoples in the Solemn Intercessions. Our symbol of wood cries out that Christ not only died on the cross, but he won a great victory by being nailed to its wood. The cross is a sign of triumph.



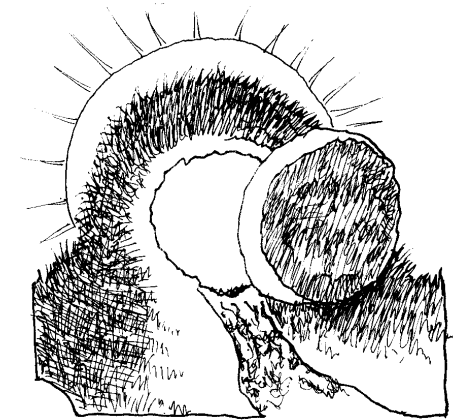
Holy Saturday Night As darkness falls we come together for the last act in the greatest feast of the Church’s year. It has been called the “mother of all vigils” Symbols abound which express what this night is all about. We await the resurrection.

Light fills the darkness as we kindle the Easter fire and set the Paschal Candle burning, proclaiming Christ as the Light of the world in the Easter song called the Exsultet. As we go to the font, we call on all our saints to bless the water which will be used for the baptisms, renewing our own promises to renounce evil. All the baptized community shares in the eucharist in which we feed on the new life which Jesus’ resurrection promises. As Easter day begins so do our Alleluias, and they will continue throughout the fifty days of the Easter feast.



The Church of the English Martyrs

Holy Week & Easter 2008



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Palm Sunday **Sunday, 16th March**

The Gospel on Palm Sunday commemorates Jesus' entry into Jerusalem for the Jewish festival of Passover and for his own final suffering. Palm branches recall the day of his entry and the proclamation of the passion recalls the day of his death. Palms will be blessed at each Mass.



4.30pm Stations of the Cross in the church.



Tuesday **18th March**

8.00pm At English Martyrs, we will be holding a Reconciliation Service in preparation for Easter. Visiting priests will be available to hear confessions.

Maundy Thursday **Thursday, 20th March**

There will be no morning Mass at English Martyrs.

At St George's Cathedral, the Mass of Chrism is concelebrated by Archbishop Kevin McDonald with the priests of the diocese at **11.15am**. The priests renew their commitment to priestly service. The Holy Oils, to be used in the celebration of the sacraments in the coming year, are blessed at this Mass.

The Mass of the Lord's Supper at **8.00pm** at English Martyrs includes the Washing of the



Feet, commemorating the gift of the Holy Eucharist.

At the end of Mass, the Blessed Sacrament is taken to the altar of repose where watching continues until **11.00pm**.

Good Friday **Friday, 21st March**

Good Friday is a day of fasting and abstinence from meat.

3.00pm The Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday commemorates the death of the Lord.

8.00pm Stations of the Cross.

Easter Vigil **Saturday, 22nd March**

The Easter Vigil begins at **8.00pm**. It is the finest liturgical ceremony of the year, celebrating the rising of Jesus from the dead. This year, two of our parishioners, Christine Smith and Vendula Bochnakova, will be Confirmed during the Vigil and admitted to full communion with the Church. All present will be invited to renew their own baptismal vows.



Easter Sunday **Sunday, 23rd March**

Mass at **9.30** and **11.30am**. There will be no evening Mass.



Easter Week **Monday, 24th – Saturday, 29th March**

9.30am Mass or Eucharistic Service as announced