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PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

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The King on a donkey

Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on a donkey on Palm Sunday fulfils completely the Old Testament prophesy by Prophet Zechariah (9:9). It is rather strange that the Messiah, the Son of David and King of the Jews, would come on a lowly barnyard animal. It is more realistic to envision the Messiah as a King, richly enrobed and crowned, riding majestically into Jerusalem on a magnificent stallion.

But in the Old Testament, a king came riding upon a horse when he was bent on war. But he rode upon a donkey when he was coming in peace. Jesus' entry into Jerusalem therefore symbolised his entry as the Prince of Peace; not a warmongering king bent on conquering lands and subjecting people to his rule.

God never intended his promised Messiah to come immediately "packaged" as a mighty and majestic King. This Prince of Peace was born in a manger and raised as a carpenter in lowly Nazareth, Galilee. He would promise peace but only as a humble servant of God, obedient to God's will.

As St. Paul explains:

"His state was divine, ... but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave ...; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even accepting death on a cross." (Philippians 2: 8-9)

During this Holy Week, we will recall Jesus' humility and obedience, as we follow Jesus through his final days. Jesus will be betrayed, denied, abandoned, mocked, scourged, crowned with thorns, made to carry his own cross and finally, crucified. But Jesus did not waver or give up. He loved his Father in heaven, and he loves us. He also trusted in his Father. As the Prophet Isaiah prophesied: The Messiah, as a Suffering Servant, would suffer grievously but he would keep his faith in God:

"The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed." (Isaiah 50:7).

The events of Holy Week challenge me. I, as a disciple of Jesus, am also called to be humble and obedient to God's will. I am also promised peace when I love and can sacrifice. So do I love and trust God enough to surrender my will? Or am I still trying to persuade God to fulfil my list of wants? In my relationships with others, am I humble and at peace? Do I insist on what I want or am I willing to give in to another's wishes? I know that I am ready to sacrifice for the people I love and care for, but I need more strength to sacrifice my time, energy and effort for people I do not care for, or even like.

I believe that I will also not be shamed if I seek to do what would be pleasing to God. I also know that the greater the love, the greater the sacrifice. May I learn to love and sacrifice as my Prince of Peace, my King on a donkey!

Reflection by Ros

Readings & Responses for the week

Palm Sunday

Sunday, 29 March Palm Sunday	Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14-27:66 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Monday, 30 March Monday of Holy Week	Is 42:1-7; Jn 12:1-11 The Lord Is my light and my help.
Tuesday, 31 March Tuesday of Holy Week	Is 49:1-6; Jn 13:21-33,36-38 My lips will tell of your help.
Wednesday, 1 April Wednesday of Holy Week	Is 50:4-9; Mt 26:14-25 In your great love, O Lord, answer my prayer for your favour.
Thursday, 2 April Maundy Thursday	Ex 12:1-8,11-14, 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15. The blessing that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ.
Friday, 3 April Good Friday	Is 52:13-53:12; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1-19:42 Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.
Saturday, 4 April Holy Saturday	Gen 1:1-2:2; Gen 22:1-18; Ex;14:15-15:1; Mt 28:1-10 Send for your spirit, O Lord. and renew the face of the earth.

NOVENA DEVOTIONS ON SATURDAY

8.00am, 10.00am, 12.00pm, 4.00pm, 5.30pm

2.00pm (Mandarin)

MASS ON WEEKDAYS

12:15pm, 6.30pm

9.00am, 6.30pm Public Holiday

(confession will be 30 minutes before Mass)

MASS ON SATURDAY

7.00am, 6.30pm (Sunset)

MASS ON SUNDAY

8.00am, 10.00am, 12.00pm, 5.30pm

(confession will be 30 minutes before Mass)

SAFE MANAGEMENT MEASURES UPDATE

No booking is required. There will not be standing room allowed in the main church.

RECEPTION OPERATING HOURS

Monday to Friday 9.00am to 8.00pm

Lunch Hour 11.45am to 12.45pm

Saturday 7.30am to 8.00pm

Sunday 8.30am to 1.30pm & 4.30pm to 7.00pm

Closed on Public Holiday

GIFTSHOP OPERATING HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 10.30am to 6.30pm

Lunch Hour 12.15pm to 12.45pm

Saturday 8.30am to 6.30pm

Sunday 9.00am to 1.30pm

Closed on Thursday and Public Holiday

PRAYING WITH CANCER



<https://novenachurch.com>

Praying WITH CANCER

A 4-WEEK JOURNEY OF PRAYER & REFLECTION

Are you living with cancer? Do you have a loved one who is struggling with cancer?

Come journey with us as we discern and learn how to bring our experiences into prayer and rest in God's presence.

**Date: 19 & 26 March (Thursday)
16 & 23 April (Thursday)**

Time: 7.00pm

**Venue: Auditorium, level 2
pastoral block, back of the Church**



cancersupport@novenachurch.com
email for further enquiries



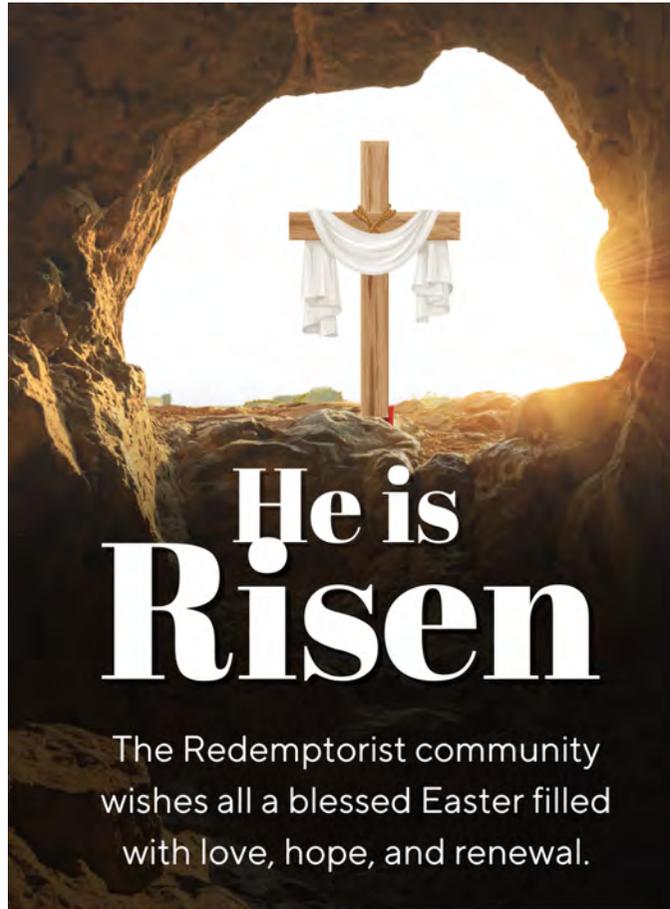
HOLY WEEK RECEPTION HOURS

**3 April, Good Friday - CLOSE
4 April, Saturday, Easter Vigil
9am - 1pm**

CHILDREN MASS

5 April, Sunday 2pm, Church

BLESSED EASTER



He is Risen

The Redemptorist community
wishes all a blessed Easter filled
with love, hope, and renewal.

RCIA JOURNEY FOR ADULTS

For those who are interested to know the Catholic faith, we are starting English RCIA class on 6th and 7th July and Chinese RCIA class on 4th July. Please kindly get the application form from the brochure stands or the reception lobby.
The closing date is 31st May 2026.

SCALA CANTEEN CLOSE

**4 April, Saturday
HOLY SATURDAY**

HOLY WEEK



OVERVIEW OF HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY

28th MARCH, Saturday
• MASS at 6.30pm

29th MARCH, Sunday

• MASS at 8.00am, 10.00am (*live streamed*)
12.30pm, 5.30pm

MAUNDY THURSDAY

2nd APRIL, Thursday

• No lunchtime & evening mass
• MASS at 8.00pm (*live streamed*)
• COMPLINE at 11.45pm
- Keeping watch with the Lord

GOOD FRIDAY

3rd APRIL, Friday

• No Mass & Prayer Intentions
• DRAMA PLAY at 2.00pm
• SERVICE at 3.00pm (*live streamed*)

HOLY SATURDAY

4th APRIL, Saturday

• No Mass at 7.00am
• No Novena Devotion
• VIGIL MASS at 8.00pm (*live streamed*)

EASTER SUNDAY

5th APRIL, Sunday

• MASS at 8.00am, 10.00am (*live streamed*)
12.00pm, 5.30pm

HOLY WEEK GIFT SHOP HOURS

**2 April, Holy Thursday - CLOSE
3 April, Friday, Good Friday - CLOSE
4 April, Saturday, Easter Vigil
- 9.00am to 1.00pm
5 April, Easter Sunday
- 9.00am to 1.30pm**