

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF OUR LORD Year A 5 April 2020**

**ALL CHURCHES ARE NOW CLOSED** due to the danger from the Corona virus.

**PUBLIC MASSES & SERVICES with a congregation will not be celebrated in our or other churches for the near future due to the dangers from the Corona virus.**

This position will continue until our bishops are advised by the Government & NHS that it is safe for people to congregate and meet in numbers. Priests in parishes will offer Mass in private daily, to invoke God's protection on his people. We pray for deliverance from this virus that threatens the wellbeing of communities and nations, at home and abroad. Useful information is on the website of the Catholic Bishops Conference of England & Wales and the statement by Cardinal Vincent Nichols is to be found at [www.cbcew.org.uk/](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/)

**WE PRAY FOR:** doctors, nurses, all working in hospitals, NHS and Emergency Services. For all who are ill at home or in hospital, for carers who look after people who are elderly or vulnerable in their homes or care homes. For those who feel the stress of being isolated or alone and depend on the goodness of others. For our families, ourselves and all in need at this time. We can reflect and pray on the Stations of the Cross and how many share in Christ's sufferings. We can light a candle at home (being careful and safe in doing so) and ask Jesus, the Light of the World to be a light and Saviour for God's people at this time of need, and we can ask Mary the Mother of Jesus and Mother of the Church to pray for us.

**SACRAMENT of PENANCE** by request and arrangement at this time.

**UNIVERSALIS:** [www.universalis.com](http://www.universalis.com) Daily Mass readings, Lectio Divina, Prayer of the Church in The Divine Office and Spiritual Readings for each day of Lent.

**EWTN DAILY MASS** and more at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/EWTN>

**DAILY MASS Leigh-on-Sea:** Our Lady of Lourdes Church at <https://lourdesleigh.org/>

**Bishops Stortford:** St Joseph & English Martyrs: [www.churchservices.tv/bishopstortford](http://www.churchservices.tv/bishopstortford)

**In Brentwood Diocese:** [www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/news/covid-19-can-parish/](http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/news/covid-19-can-parish/)

**DAILY SERVICES WITH MASS:** [www.churchservicestv.com](http://www.churchservicestv.com)

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR KIDS:** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=j0qv7c4PsrA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j0qv7c4PsrA)

**CAFOD KIDS ZONE:** <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Kidz-Zone> (worth visiting)

**DAILY SERVICE on BBC RADIO 4** (198 meters Long Wave) at 9.45am

**SUNDAY SERVICE** on BBC RADIO 4 on 92.3FM at 8.10am

**BBC ESSEX** at 95.3 and 103.5FM Sunday programme from 6.00am to 9.00am

**SPIRITUALITY & LENT:** <https://aleteia.org/category/spirituality/>

**A LENT RETREAT 2020 – Journeying with Jesus daily:** [www.sacredspace.ie](http://www.sacredspace.ie)

**SCRIPTURE READINGS for PALM SUNDAY Year A 5<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

**FIRST GOSPEL:** Matthew 21:1-11 Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey to Hosannas

**OT READING:** Isaiah 50:4-7 A prophecy on how Jesus would be tortured and abused

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Psalm 21 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me

**NT READING:** Philippians 2: 6-11 Jesus humbled himself to death on a Cross

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 26:14-27:66 Jesus' Last Supper, passion, crucifixion and death

**GREAT THANKS:** In this challenging and very difficult time, when people have to cope with many difficulties and the unexpected, there have been extraordinary acts of kindness and caring by people of all ages in the area to others that they do not know. We are all most grateful for this caring and sharing of concern and love in the area.

## The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



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**Registered Charity Number: 234092**

**Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove/Lebohang**

**Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa**

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD A 5<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

*Dear friends,*

“His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as all men are” (Philippians 2:6-11). In this text, St Paul speaks of the divine and human nature of Jesus, who gave up his glory and was humble by going through suffering and death on the Cross. On Palm Sunday the Church takes us into the passing popularity of Christ. In Holy Week, we go through his sufferings and being glorified through death on the Cross, on Good Friday. Christ, the innocent Lamb of God was put to death and through his sufferings, death and resurrection God gives the promise and hope of eternal life to all who place their faith in Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

It is sad this year that with the closure of the churches, due the Corona virus, Holy Week liturgies will be celebrated without a congregation in churches. The Mass of Chrism will not be celebrated in Holy Week, but later in the year. On Maundy (Holy) Thursday evening the Mass of Our Lord's Last Supper, when Jesus changed bread and wine into his Body and Blood and told us: “Do this in memory of me”, is celebrated. The washing of his disciples feet showed his humble service and his giving us a New Commandment to “love one another as I have loved you”. On that night remember his Agony in the Garden, and pray with him and for all those who are suffering their own agony and tribulations at this time.

On Holy Saturday Christians remember and meditate on Jesus in the tomb and the grief so many people suffer around the world on mourning the death of their loved ones. At the Easter Vigil and on Easter Sunday, we celebrate Christ's triumph over suffering and death in his glorious resurrection. In our homes, we can participate in these sacred mysteries though using online broadcasts of Holy Week and Easter services. This is the most important week in the Church's year when we celebrate God's great love for us, and the new life of grace he gives us through Christ.

This year we see people around the world, united in one human family, all sharing in the insecurity and sufferings caused by the Corona virus. People's sufferings can be linked with Christ's sufferings of in Holy Week. By his going through suffering, death and resurrection, we are given the hope of overcoming our sufferings and death, and coming to share in the glory of his resurrection and eternal life.

*May Christ's sufferings and death touch our minds and hearts. Fr John*

