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Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, Year A

5 April 2020

First Reading Is 50: 4-7

I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.

4 "The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens— awakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. 5 The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.

6 "I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

7 "The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame."

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 22: 8-9, 17-20, 23-24. R. v. 2

(R.) *My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?*

- All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend.' (R.)
- Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet.
I can count every one of my bones. (R.)
- They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me! (R.)
- I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons.' (R.)

Second Reading Phil 2: 6-11

He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.

5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, 7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, 8 he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

9 Therefore God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation Phil 2: 8-9

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross,
Therefore God raised him on high
and gave him a name above all other names.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**

Gospel shorter form Mt 27: 11-54

11 Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." 12 But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. 13 Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?"

14 But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

15 Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone they wanted. 16 At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas. 17 So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" 18 For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over.

19 While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him."

20 Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. 21 The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." 22 Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" 23 Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

24 So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." 26 So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. 28 They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 29 and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 30 They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. 31 After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

32 As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. 33 And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), 34 they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.

35 And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; 36 then they sat down there and kept watch over him.

37 Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." 38 Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.

39 Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 40 "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross."

41 In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, 42 "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. 43 He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" 44 The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

45 From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. 46 And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" 47 When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah."

48 At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. 49 But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."

50 Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. 51 At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. 52 The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. 53 After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many.

54 Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"



Reflection by Greg Sunter

The Passion narrative, as described in the gospel of Matthew, is keen to drive home two particular points. Firstly, throughout this gospel, the gospel writer is at pains to demonstrate Jesus as fulfilling the prophecy of scripture. At the time of the arrest and the use of the thirty pieces of silver, we are reminded that these things took place to fulfil scripture. Secondly, this particular gospel emphasises the innocence of Jesus throughout the passion narrative: he is 'sold out' by one of his followers; his trial before the Sanhedrin is a farce; his most loyal follower denies association with him; Pilate declares himself innocent of Jesus' blood and the crowd accepts the consequences of their actions. At no point is any hint of guilt cast over Jesus. He is an innocent whose fate has been manipulated by others. In this gospel there is no conversation between Jesus and the criminals between whom he is crucified. There is no suggestion that Jesus too is a criminal who is deserving of his fate. His innocence is manifest.

These two themes merge together in this gospel. The manner of Jesus' arrest, trial and death are all in accordance with the prophecy of scripture (i.e. in accordance with God's will), and yet it is emphasised throughout that Jesus is innocent. There can be no accusation that Jesus is in any way deserving of his treatment and yet what befalls him is in keeping with God's plan. It emphasises the sacrificial act made by Jesus: a proven innocent giving his life for the good of others. The actions of those who plot against Jesus to seek his downfall actually serve to bring about his purpose. No other outcome was possible. The writer assures the audience that the death of Jesus was no accident; it was intended from the very beginning.

St PAUL'S PARISH MASS TIMES: "On-Line"

Sunday at 8.30am live streamed on YouTube <https://bit.ly/39FUTNp> (or search YouTube St Paul's Parish Nightcliff)

Daily Readings and Homily uploaded each day Monday to Saturday on YouTube or Parish Facebook page.

Everything can be accessed from our website <http://stpaulsnightcliff.com.au>

Hello again :-)

Well not everything is closing down!

- Following from our **menALIVE weekend** there are now a number of small groups that are meeting regularly, online of course. I've attended one of those meetings and it was very easy and supportive time. If you weren't able to attend the weekend, please feel free to join a group. You only have to attend once and can make up your mind. If you would like to please call or text Dan Ryan 0432 215 765.
- **Teams of Our Lady**, which is a monthly meeting for married couples is also starting up in the Parish. We have three young couples who will be forming the first group. It will also be an online get together. If you are interested in being part of Teams, please let us know. It would be great to have another couple of groups going. Please call us here at the office on 8985 2343 or 0408 299 170
- **Holy Week Reflection Night** will take place online this Tuesday from 7:30pm to 8:30pm. Please visit our FB Page for more information.

Easter Liturgies online

- **Holy Thursday 9th April:** 7:30pm Mass of the Last Supper. 8pm-9pm Adoration of the Blessed Eucharist
- **Good Friday 10th April:** The Passion of Our Lord 3pm.
- **Easter Vigil Sat 11th April:** 7:30pm Mass and Service of Light. You will all be represented in a special way—tune in to see how!
- **Easter Sunday 12th April:** 8:30am Mass of the Risen Lord

Collection

Thankyou to everyone who is contributing via Direct Debit, Credit Card or dropping of envelopes and donations. It is very reassuring. Please remember to reduce or cancel any contributions if your own financial situation changes.

Assistance to Parishioners

Once again if you know of anyone who is need of help we have had so many parishioners keen to assist. Please, please call us.

Hugs and Kisses from two meters away :-) Fr Peter and the Parish Team

To continue to contribute to St Pauls Parish Collections in the absence of Mass:**Option A: Direct Deposit /Debit**

Arrange with your bank for on-line banking!

Account Name: St Pauls Catholic Parish Account

BSB: 035 306 **Account Number:** 810 065

Please remember to put your name as a reference on the payment.

Can be a single payment or ongoing weekly /monthly as you see fit.

Option B: Credit Card

Standing authority for recurrent periodic payments by Credit Card – can be cancelled by you at any time. This will be withdrawn just once a month My pledge is \$ _____ per month

Name on Card: _____

Card Number: _____

Expiry Date: _____ CVV: _____ Visa/Master (please circle)

Signature: _____

(Print/copy and return this form to Parish C/C Debits are arranged through Diocese and forwarded to St Pauls Parish)

For further information contact Fr Peter: 0408 299 170

Next Week: Easter Sunday : **Acts 10: 34, 36-43** **Col 3: 1-4** **Jn 20: 1-18**

Last week's collections:

Single Collection: *Through Planned giving Envelopes and Cash / donations all for the support of our Priests & for the mission & maintenance of our Parish: \$370. Direct Debit: \$ 935.00 and Monthly C/C: \$1726.00*

Thank you for your generosity. Project Compassion: \$989.65 to date.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Rosario Opsima, Margaret Newland, Joseph Regan, June Richards, Sally-Ann Dillon, Frank Kert; Joan Baker, Alfredo Magtoto, Charles Thomas; Edward Thomas; Veronica Lovren; Bro Ted Merritt.

Sacrament of Reconciliation program for 2020

Sacrament: Deferred until further notice
New date will be advised via email when available.

Good Friday Appeal:

The Worldwide Good Friday Collection is a vital gesture of solidarity that the whole Church makes to support, through the Custody of the Holy Land, the Christian peoples of the Holy Land and provides for upkeep of the sacred places. It is not just churches and holy places that make up the Holy Land, it is also the local Christian Community which makes up less than 2% of the population. The political and economic crisis of the area shows evidence each day of unspeakable suffering. There is an urgent need to support our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land. Please pray for them this Good Friday and where possible generously donate to the Good Friday Collection.

Good Friday Collection envelopes will be available at the Church door this week along with copies of the Bulletin. Any contributions can be dropped off at the Presbytery.

In 2019 Darwin Diocese contributed \$8297 to the Good Friday Collections for Holy Places

St Pauls Catholic Primary School:

Covid-19 Pandemic:

Next week, April 6th—April 9th have been declared Pupil Free Days. However the school will remain open for students of families who are required to work and cannot make alternative arrangements.

Friday 10th April is Good Friday, a public Holiday and the end of Term 1. OSHC will be operating on the school days and normal fees apply.

The regular Vacation Care program will be running from April 14 – 17. Please book with Out of School Hours Care ASAP



St Vincent de Paul



The St Paul's Conference now meets via teleconference each week.

Change to services

For changes to our services, please go to [https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/News/NT/COVID-19 - Vinnies NT/](https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/News/NT/COVID-19-Vinnies-NT/) and follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/VinniesNT/>

From this week Emergency Relief will operate from our offices in Casuarina only. Our home visitation services have changed to meet health directives.

We still welcome quality donations of clothing, accessories and household goods, as normal. They are critical to ensure we continue delivering support services in a time of increased need. Due to social distancing requirements we have ceased all collection and delivery of items to residences. If you can, please hold on to your items as we will be delighted to collect your generous donation once the health crisis has passed, or you should feel free to pass it on to any charity of your choice.

Can you help us?

We need volunteers right now more than ever. Consider your own safety and make the choice that is right for your health, your family and those who you would be helping while volunteering. Remember the legal requirement for a valid National Police Check and an Ochre Card to enable you to volunteer. Please contact us on 08 8948 8100 or email at admin@svdpnt.org.au to enquire about volunteering with us.

If you can support the Society financially, please go to Vinnies.org.au, click on 'Donate' at the top right of your screen, scroll down to 'Give to a local cause', select NT, and click on the COVID 19 appeal. THANK YOU.

Free take away meals from Ozanam House, 2 Westralia St, Stuart Park. 8-9am & 11am-12pm.

Just for Fun:

What does the world's top dentist get? A little plaque.
I used to be addicted to not showering. Luckily, I've been clean for five years.
Have you heard about Murphy's Law? Yes. Anything that can go wrong will go wrong. How about Cole's Law? No. It's julienned cabbage in a creamy dressing.
What did the green grape say to the purple grape? "Breathe, man! Breathe!"
What's the difference between a hippo and a Zippo? One is really heavy, the other's a little lighter.
How does a farmer mend his overalls? With cabbage patches.
Why was the tomato red? Because he saw the salad dressing.
I got my husband a fridge for his birthday. His face lit up when he opened it.
Why were they called the Dark Ages? Because there were lots of knights.
How does NASA organize a party? They planet.
What did one toilet say to the other? You look flushed

Reconciliation will be available from Fr Peter or Fr Bartha. Please contact them to make an appointment.

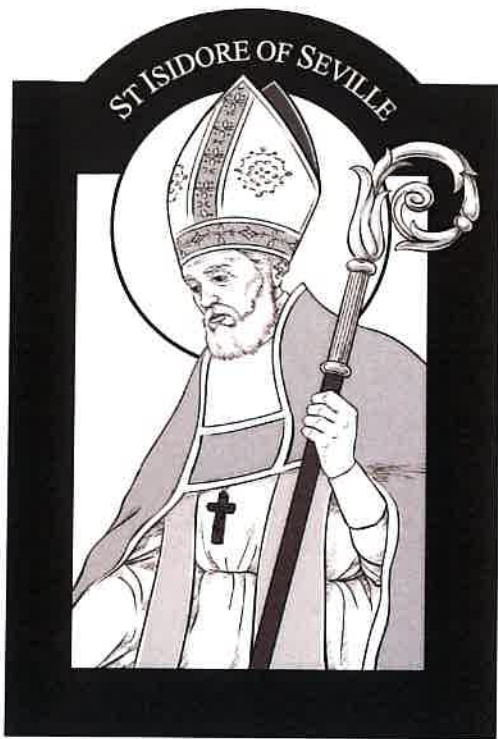
Free Catholic Movies, E-books, Media & Curriculum

A collection of family Catholic programs, movies, kids movies etc online.
40 day free subscription available now - given the current challenges.
<https://formed.org/faithathome>

**From the Daily Readings -
The Charism of Jules Chevalier:**

*Let us see in all the trials that come to us
a sign of God's love and of His mercy.*





Wordsearch

Try to find these words:

- | | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------|
| branches | donkey | Jerusalem |
| clothes | excited | road |
| crowd | followed | shouted |
| disciples | Hosanna | village |

B A D I S C I P L E S O E S
 L L I E X C I T E D S A C H
 L X R O G O D U Y Y J V W O
 C C L O T H E S C V U T C U
 N T J M U X K Y B H P G Q T
 C X P B E T E M A K S X C E
 F E M M C T H O S A N N A D
 H T H D B R A N C H E S C R
 B G J E R U S A L E M T R O
 D O N K E Y V Q I T O R O A
 O C A X P O I K U H O Z W D
 N Q W S P A J J M Z E W D O
 I J A F O L L O W E D X F C
 P X Z F R V I L L A G E N E

St Isidore of Seville was born in Spain in C. 560 AD to parents of high social rank. His elder brother, St Leander, served as Archbishop and was one of a body of learned men who taught Isidore at the Cathedral school of Seville. Following his brother's death in C. 600 AD, Isidore succeeded as Archbishop of Seville. During his 32 years of service, he worked to assimilate the remaining Roman culture with the ruling barbarian culture of the Visigoths through education – introducing his countrymen to the Greek philosopher Aristotle. Regarded as one of the most learned men of his age, Isidore was the first Christian writer to attempt to compile an encyclopedia of universal knowledge. In 1997, he was nominated to be the patron saint of the internet by Pope John Paul II.

Crossword



ACROSS

- 3: the city where Jesus made a triumphant entrance on Palm Sunday
- 5: the animal that carried Jesus on its back
- 10: a small town
- 11: what you wear
- 12: followers of Jesus

DOWN

- 1: the people shouted "_____ for the Son of David"
- 2: a large gathering of people
- 4: yelled, spoken loudly
- 6: extremely happy
- 7: many people _____ Jesus through the streets
- 8: limbs of a tree
- 9: a path for travelling

