**THE SACRED EASTER TRIDUUM**

**“The 3 days**” is the core of Christianity, why we are Christians, and was real CRISIS:

all the appearances of what was happening seemed to tell of DANGER and destruction, defeating God’s ways – until the Resurrection discloses that all the while, hidden behind the seems, the OPPORTUNITY was being worked out for all to share in the gift the Holy Spirit faithfully continues to make truly present……

**EACH DAY STARTS the EVENING BEFORE** it seems to me, 3 parts of 1 action:

* DAY #1: Jesus Service and Sacrifice: from Thursday evening’s Last Supper, through Gethsemane, the Trial and the Crucifixion on Friday 3pm
* DAY#2: the Hidden Action of God: from Friday evening Watching at the Tomb, through Saturday’s emptiness, nothing to do but hope, pray, wait…
* DAY#3: The Lord is Risen – the New Creation is begun: from Saturday evening’s Easter Proclamation and Eucharist through to Sunday morning…

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

**At 7pm in Sacred Heart** Fr Tony will celebrate alone with the tabernacle emptied, all banners down, no altar of repose but some chairs on the altar steps for the “apostles” to be washed – ie you.

**First:** the Archbishop has asked priests to renew their vows at this mass instead of the Cathedral in normal times. **At home** you might renew your commitment and vocation - as spouse, partner, parent, child family member – your work, in the home, as teacher, plumber, doctor, nurse or window cleaner…**Gratitude for such serving work** is very liberating; and appreciate each other’s work and service.

**Second:** then Fr Tony will read the Scriptures and offer the Eucharist, the First Communion being at this Last Supper of Jesus. It was a Passover ritual meal, giving thanks to God for his liberating actions like the Exodus. Jesus would have learnt it as a child, offered in the home, led by the Mother and Father. **At home**, you can,

* gather at a table if you can: “every table is sacred” Where 2 or 3….
* have a piece of bread in front of you, some wine also if you can
* say the prayers, or make your own: let the bread and wine be the offering to God of your life with Jesus, as it is in every mass
* pray the Our Father and eat and drink…knowing the priest and others are.

**Third:** Fr Tony will then pour some water into the bowl, and wash his hands, looking at the empty chairs, missing you but in communion spiritually. Usually in our church, after the priest washing some of the participants’ feet, everyone washes each others’ hands as a more modern sign of service and appreciation.

* wash your own hands, wash each others if you can – look how much hands and washing are part of life nowadays, danger and opportunity
* **at 8pm join the country at your door clapping hands for the Carers**

**PALM SUNDAY**

From Bethlehem to Jerusalem, Jesus is the love of God come to get us, liberate us, release us and wed his life to ours. It is through ways of mystery that he accomplished his saving mission:

* little donkey, little donkey, carry Jesus home….as you did mother Mary
* the non-violent King coming to serve, not Lord it over others
* entering into anyone’s heart and soul who welcomes his passionate way

**A garden** is a good place to join in, alone or gather your household (if willing) –

hold a branch or blossom, or the palm cross, flower; or set before you a potted plant, if you are at a table, alone or with others.

**Wherever** you pray, see/use what you hold as a waving symbol of acclaim, praise, gratitude for the coming of Christ, his generous sacrifice, the gift of faith and the community that we cannot gather with, but still is part of us. Appreciate all those you love, who are part of your life, physically present or socially distanced.

**Fr Tony in the church** will begin this as 12noon, alone, blessing all the palms.

**THE PASSION** is read today, then the mass as usual:

**At home** read some scripture…and link up with the “Bidding Prayers”

**Pray for yourself and others, church and world,** eg our Lenten themes:

* being cleansed and refreshed by the spring of living water within you
* being enlightened in our blindness by the truth that Jesus brings
* being guided by his call to overcome death and grief, to trust in God

Praying for all suffering and serving in this crisis, the Our Father does a good job **Talking to each other** about Palm Sunday can be a very important thing to do this year – what do you miss, what have you never liked about it, your memories….

PLAN YOUR WEEK……..decide how you will make it your Holy Week.

**MONDAY:** Fr Tony celebrates mass at 12noon each day. “Magnificat” and others have the scriptures ….each day choose a focus of what Jesus did and is doing:

eg Today **focus on the cleansing of the Temple – the force and the need for it**

**The Passover Meal** that we cannot do this year will be part of Maundy Thursday

**TUESDAY: eg focus on Jesus teaching “love the Lord…with your whole heart, mind, soul, strength and your neighbour as yourself” – and the conflict of trying to do this in the face of the demands of other powers in our lives.**

**The GIFT prayer group** that was to meet today can be part of Saturday’s space.

**WEDNESDAY: eg focus on the woman who anointed Jesus with great love, the love that helped him face death – while Judas rejects and betrays him**

Our relationships of love strengthen us – how do we grow to forgive betrayal?

**GOOD FRIDAY**

**Fr Tony at 12noon** will enact a (virtual, alone) Walk of Witness – remembering that in usual times we do this together as Christians United in Southport.

**At 3pm THE PASSION LITURGY** will begin in St John Stone Church, Fr Tony alone.

The Passion gospel will be read – only one voice this year! In bare feet he will carry the cross to the front, stand it up honoured, sing God’s praise and kneel in prayer:

* the absence of all others is part of sharing Christ’s sufferings this year

**“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”**

* the prayers for the world, the church, our families, our country etc will include special prayers for the dead of C19, all who are grieving and all who are serving and fighting the pandemic
* only Fr Tony’s lips this year will **kiss the cross in reverent gratitude** for this sign of the enormous, courageous love that Jesus shows to save us and is continuing to share with us. Have your own cross **at home** to kiss if you can.
* Fr Tony will lead a **Confession and Reconciliation** prayer for all to join in if you wish, remembering and receiving “Christ died to save us from sin….” and his forgiving mercy to the repentant is the way he begins

You may think of simply a time of **silence** then, or talking about what this means.

**HOLY SATURDAY**

**Emptiness** is appropriate prayer for this Day#2: beginning with **At the Tomb** at 7pm Friday evening in St John Stone….continuing on the Saturday with nothing…………..

**At home do as little as you can….**

* try to take a time of acknowledging **griefs in our lives** and finding ways **to mourn what is lost**
* making prayerful space to admit and start to accept others’ sufferings
* visiting the cemetery is what we do in usual years: remember this year Jesus said: “ if you will only believe you will see the glory of God”!

**EASTER DAY AND RESURRECTION**

**Saturday eve at 8pm in St John Stone** Fr Tony, alone, will enter the dark church and

* light and carry the Easter candle to its place, where running water is in the font and the coloured flowers cross is in front of it: **grateful singing out!**
* he will proclaim our faith and renew Baptism promises then lead into mass
* this year our joy can be real, yet restrained because life is not yet **risen!**
* **At home** you could repeat the offering with bread and wine like Thursday

**Sunday sunrise at 6.30am** Fr Tony will be on the beach – in the past Ecumenically.

**At home eat breakfast together** on Easter Sunday morning, use eggs if you can – and if you have champagne, share it – or something else, later in the day!

Dare to take some cake or chocolate, safely, and leave it at a neighbours door. Think deliberately of all you are **grateful** for – even or especially in hard times!!

**HeartStone** - **the paired Parish of**

**Sacred Heart and St John Stone**

**HOLY WEEK 2020**

**IN TIME OF CRISIS……**

This year the Holy Week is different….It has to be because of the CV, because the government and church authorities have called us to solidarity of protection….

and in our diocese this is happening in the midst of our Synoding to find fresh vision from God and listening to each other for adjusting to the signs of our times

**Southport Synod Members** continue to dialogue and discern on Zoom and share the outlook that the Chinese character for CRISIS, weiji, is made up of two aspects: DANGER and OPPORTUNITY. This leaflet is offered in this spirit for the **opportunity** of including **Prayer in the Home** with the **Liturgy of Holy Week.**

**THE INSTITUTIONAL SIDE of the CHURCH**

The Pope and Vatican have issued guidelines for change this week; Archbishop Malcolm has as well. People can join in livestreamed liturgy with the Pope, Bishops, priests (see info on the newsletter). The times of HeartStone liturgy are on the newsletter and website so that **you can choose to:**

* **use these suggestions as part of joining livestreamed communioning**
* **use them linked to the HeartStone liturgies and timings**
* **use or adapt for your own prayer and liturgy at your own times**

**HOME IS A HOLY PLACE**

**Parents and adults** share in Jesus service of leading others in prayer and worship

**Liturgy** is what we do to let God do things in us: the work of the people to receive the workings of God. So especially in Holy Week we pray our liturgy:

* to remember what God has done and changed in Jesus Christ
* to receive, reverence and give thanks for the benefits of their work
* to rededicate ourselves , strengthened and united, to continue their love

**ENTERING THE WEEK AS A UNITY**

Our Lenten efforts have been described well as a time of scrutiny:

*to uncover, then heal, all that is weak, defective or sinful in our hearts;*

*to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong and good in us.*

This week is the final week of our solidarity in Lent, leading into the Sacred Triduum –

**may all that Christ has done FOR us back then, be done IN us now in our living liturgy**

**MERCY –** the forgiveness of our sins, the loving companionship of his Real Presence,

the conversion of heart and life – these are the fruits of the Easter Mystery.

Since we cannot gather for **The Service of Reconciliation** as we usually do,

it will be integrated as part of the Good Friday liturgy.

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