



St Joseph's & St John the Baptist

CATHOLIC PARISH EAST BRIGHTON

The Paschal Triduum HOLY THURSDAY to EASTER SUNDAY 2025



LITURGY TIMES:

Holy Thursday

17th April

St Joseph's at 8pm

St John the Baptist at 8pm

Good Friday

18th April

St Joseph's at 3pm

St John the Baptist at 3pm

Liturgy of the Word for Children at both.

Easter Vigil

Holy Saturday, 19th April,

St John the Baptist at 8.30pm

Please gather in Church by 8.15pm

Easter Sunday

20th April

St John the Baptist 9.00 & 11.00

St Joseph's 11.00

(no evening mass)

HOLY WEEK

In the midst of what is for many, just another working week, we are challenged as Christians to live these few days in a manner which will allow Holy Week to live up to its name. We start with Palm Sunday when the mood of the liturgy changes dramatically from the celebratory atmosphere of the triumphal entry into Jerusalem to the solemn and thought-provoking reading of the Passion.

The hymns of praise and palm-waving give way to the contemplation of suffering and death...but as the events of the week unfold, we gradually discover anew that it is not a death without hope.

WHAT WE DO FROM HOLY THURSDAY TO EASTER SUNDAY

THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday marks the end of Lent and beginning of the most sacred three days of our calendar. The liturgical celebration stretches from Holy Thursday night until very late on Holy Saturday Night like a seamless robe.

Effectively all this time constitutes one continuous ritual and we are invited not just to be in church at the appointed times but also to give the in-between times a special quality. Adults in the community are invited to plan ahead so that the whole time from Thursday night until the Easter Vigil can be free of social engagements and even work – if it is possible. On Good Friday we fast from temporal food and we also fast spiritually from Thursday night until the Vigil, as during this time the sacraments are not celebrated except for emergencies.

From the end of the celebration of the Passion on Good Friday, until the lighting of the Easter Fire on Holy Saturday night, we are watchful, but not yet joyful.

HOLY THURSDAY



This evening, after listening to the scriptures we do something very strange: we wash feet. This is not play-acting or a visual aid for the Gospel. It is more important than that. Some of us go down on our knees with pitchers of water, basins and towels.

Jesus gave us this image of what the Church is supposed to look like, feel like, act like. This is the rehearsal for Christian life. This is a symbolic and sacramental act, showing us how we should be living and hopefully, reflecting some of our reality. Later we celebrate the Eucharist, but the evening has no ending: whether we stay to pray awhile or leave, we have embarked on a journey which will take us to the cross and beyond. This journey is the very beginning of eternity.

GOOD FRIDAY



We gather quietly on Friday afternoon with ceremony but no glory. We listen to scripture and then pray at some length for the needs of the Church and the world.

Then another once-a-year event. The Holy Cross is held aloft and we come forward one by one to venerate in our own way: a genuflection, a bow or a simple kiss. It is the Cross we honour today, not the figure of Jesus. It is the wood of the cross which symbolises our redemption. The Eucharist is not celebrated today, although Holy Communion can be received for those who wish. Today, the reverence and and veneration ordinarily given to the Eucharist, is directed to the cross itself. As our fast and prayer continues after we leave church, there is no blessing or dismissal.

On this day we genuflect to the cross and leave the church in silence.

Children will be included in a special way during this service.

HOLY SATURDAY NIGHT



This is the night of nights! This is the very heart of our faith, only the most urgent or pressing of personal needs should keep us away. If we do not yearn to be here, what is our faith worth to us?

Hungry and excited the Church gathers in the darkness and lights a new fire and a great candle that will make this night bright again for us.

We listen to some of the most powerful scriptures in the Bible, then we pray for all the saints to stand with us as we go to the font to bless the Easter water. Then we will have the great privilege of witnessing seven of our new parishioners being baptised, with others being received and confirmed. We will all renew our baptismal promises. Then our fast is truly over and together we go to the table to celebrate the Easter Eucharist. Easter Sunday begins and we are ready for fifty days of rejoicing!

He
is
Risen