

SATURDAY 31st MARCH HOLY SATURDAY
 8.00am ST. EDMUND'S Morning Prayer
 8.15pm ST. EDMUND'S GREAT VIGIL &
 FIRST MASS OF EASTER



SUNDAY 1st APRIL EASTER DAY

8.30am ST. EDMUND'S MASS OF EASTER DAY
 10.30am ST. EDMUND'S MASS OF EASTER DAY
 10.30am LAWSHALL MASS OF EASTER DAY
 6.00pm ST. EDMUND'S MASS OF EASTER DAY

ALTAR SERVERS Your contribution to our Easter celebrations is vital, so please do sign the list in the Sacristy giving your availability to serve at the Easter ceremonies (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday Easter Vigil & Easter Sunday.)

READERS are needed to assist with the reading of the Passion on Good Friday Please sign the list in the porch you would like to help with this. Many thanks.

FEET NEEDED! Each year at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday, the Priest presents to us afresh the Lord's call to His disciples to follow Him in lives of love and service to others as he washes the feet of twelve of the people he has been appointed to serve.



Perhaps this year, if you have never had your foot washed at Maundy Thursday Mass, you might like to offer yourself to the service of our Holy Week Liturgy by doing so. Fr. Mark.

Please pray for those throughout our Diocese who are preparing to be received the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil and on Easter Sunday morning.



St Edmund King & Martyr

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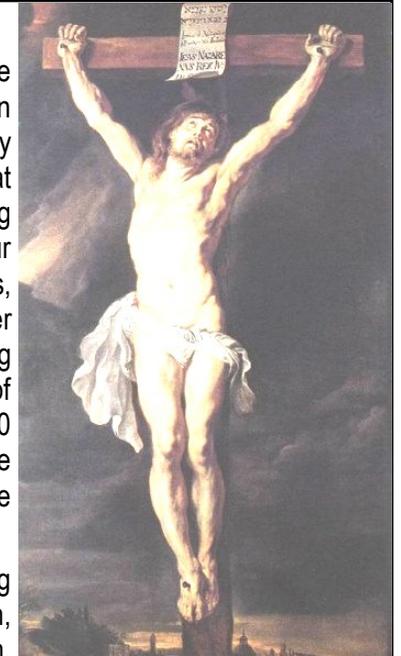
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THE GREAT WEEK

With the Mass of Palm Sunday we begin the most important week of the Christian calendar. Throughout this week our Liturgy calls us to immerse ourselves in the great event of our salvation: in the life-giving Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord. The call is not to be mere spectators, but really to enter into these events – after all they are events of world-shattering importance. They have changed the lives of countless millions throughout the last 2000 years, and will continue to do so in the millennia to come. They should also be changing and informing our lives too!



Palm Sunday Mass begins commemorating of the Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, when the crowds joyfully welcomed Him, casting their cloaks on the ground before Him and waving branches wildly as they cried 'Hosannah!' There will be times in OUR lives when the presence of Christ is experienced powerfully and in which we are filled with the same joy that brimmed over in the hearts of the people of Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday. It is for this reason that we too are invited to take and bless palm branches and to **JOIN IN WITH THE SINGING OF 'HOSANNAH!'** So, at the beginning of this Sunday's Mass – please, please do sing with gusto and with joy – celebrating the presence of the Lord in YOUR life!

Not so long afterwards, the mood of the Liturgy changes abruptly as we move to events of Good Friday and commemorate how the joy and acclamation has been transformed so quickly to revilement and condemnation. We hear the account of the Passion, this year from the Gospel of Mark. Again, unlike the

Gospel throughout the rest of the year, it is proclaimed in a manner which invites our active participation. Some parishioners will speak the parts of individuals in the crowd, while **ALL** are invited to join in the words of the crowd as a whole (the **bold text** marked 'C' in your Mass leaflet). Once again, this is not mere amateur dramatics, it is a means of reflecting how in *OUR OWN* lives, there are moments in which we turn from the Lord, moments in which we reject His wisdom and love. Many of us, I am sure, would have been part of the crowds who shouted both 'Hosannah' and 'Crucify!' – not bad people, but weak on occasions.

This week, we do not just follow and observe at a distance, but are to walk in the very steps of the Apostles and Jesus' other disciples; men and women just like us, faithful but weak. It is of us too that Jesus spoke: 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do!' If we follow with our whole being, participating actively in the Liturgy, we will be helped not only to acknowledge our sinfulness and weakness, but to experience in our own hearts and minds the mercy of God in His Son. That experience of mercy will bring us to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is our brother in the flesh, as He is our Lord in His divinity. We too will rise with Him – His Resurrection will be felt in our lives – and our Easter joy will be all the greater for it!

Obviously the extent to which we can respond to this call by attending the various Liturgies of this week will depend upon family, work and other commitments (*which is the reason we get a taste of Good Friday on this Palm Sunday morning*). **However, please do try this week to come when you can, particularly to the three parts of the Easter Triduum: the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday at 7.30pm, the Liturgy of the Passion on Good Friday afternoon at 3pm and Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday evening at 8.15pm. In these celebrations we come to the very heart of our Faith.**

I would like to thank in advance all those who have already put so much work into the celebration of Holy Week and those who will be working hard over the coming days: cleaning decorating and preparing our Churches, rehearsing and leading the music, serving at the Altar, reading, printing, stapling and PRAYING.

But, whatever we do, or able to do this week, let us follow our Lord, prayerfully and joyfully, whether it is together in Church, or alone at home with the Scriptures.

***With every blessing,
Fr. Mark***

**CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. EDMUND, KING & MARTYR
Bury St Edmunds & Lawshall**

HOLY WEEK LITURGY



- SATURDAY 24th MARCH**
18.00 ST. EDMUND'S **BLESSING OF PALMS, PROCESSION & MASS OF PASSION SUNDAY**
- SUNDAY 25th MARCH** (*Collection at all Masses for Easter Flowers*)
8.30am ST. EDMUND'S **MASS OF PALM SUNDAY**
10.30am ST. EDMUND'S **BLESSING OF PALMS, PROCESSION & MASS OF PASSION SUNDAY**
10.30am LAWSHALL **BLESSING OF PALMS & MASS OF PASSION SUNDAY**
6.00pm ST. EDMUND'S **MASS OF PASSION SUNDAY**

- TUESDAY 27th MARCH**
7.00pm St John's Cathedral **CHRISM MASS**
Norwich



- THURSDAY 29th MARCH MAUNDY THURSDAY**
8.00am ST. EDMUND'S *Morning Prayer*
7.30pm ST. EDMUND'S **MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**
(*Collection for SVP*)
followed by Watching at Altar of Repose until 12 midnight.



- FRIDAY 30th MARCH GOOD FRIDAY**
8.00am ST. EDMUND'S *Morning Prayer*
12.00pm ST. EDMUND'S *Stations of the Cross for Children*
3.00pm ST. EDMUND'S **SOLEMN LITURGY OF THE PASSION**
(*Collection for Holy Shrines*)
7.00pm LAWSHALL *Stations of the Cross*

