

A TALE OF SUFFERING AND LOVE

For Christians, the story of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus represents the climax, not just of the earthly life of our Lord, but of all biblical revelation. In the gospel of Mark, the passion account begins with a reminder that the leaders of the people (chief priests and scribes) were looking for a way to have Jesus arrested and executed, but they didn't want to incite a riot among the people because of the esteem in which they held Jesus.

It is impossible to comment on all the elements of this incredibly rich gospel, so I will offer some thoughts on a little 'story-within-the-story', which is the anointing of Jesus by an unnamed woman at the very beginning of the narrative. At first glance, this episode seems completely irrelevant and we may be tempted to dismiss it until we read, at the end of the story: "... wherever throughout the world the Good News is proclaimed, what she has done will be told also, in remembrance of her."

This story is important because it is related to the Passion of Jesus and is a prelude to the more important story. This woman's actions tells us how to read and understand the Passion of Jesus. Briefly stated, her extravagant anointing of Jesus represents what Jesus is about to do for the world. Just as she breaks open the exquisite alabaster jar and pours its precious and fragrant ointment on the head of Jesus in anticipation of his death and burial, so also Jesus will allow his body to be broken in death and will pour the precious ointment of his life-blood on all of us.

Her action is considered wasteful and foolish by the bystanders, so that Jesus corrects them as he praises the woman for her generosity. In like manner, what Jesus does may appear to be foolish and wasteful to an unbelieving and cynical world, but his Father will raise him from the dead and thereby confirm forever the wisdom of his generosity.

If we take seriously this little story of the anointing of Jesus, we will learn that the passion story is not primarily about how much Jesus suffered, but rather about how much he loved. He did suffer, and his suffering was intense. But suffering as such is not necessarily redemptive. What makes the pain and suffering of Jesus the source of salvation for us is the fact that it resulted from his extraordinary loving. We all know that suffering can come from sources other than loving, such as not getting our own way or being wedded to false goals, but this kind of selfish suffering has nothing in common with the suffering of Jesus. The passion is a brutal story of suffering and death, but it is also the defining story of God's love for us. The woman understands, but the disciples have yet to gain this insight.

Michael A Kelly CSsR
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MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

510 Riddell Road, Glendowie 1071

Parish Office: 575 9296
Parish Priest: Fr John Dunn
Dcn Mark Rivalland: 021 482 555
Office Hours: Mon - Fri: 9.30am-12pm
Wednesday: 1.30-5pm
E-Mail: office@glendowiecatholic.org.nz
Parish Website: www.glendowiecatholic.org.nz
Parish Administrator: Karla Nobre Milosevic
Pastoral Worker: Maureen Keenan (Home)5754354



Masses:

Saturday Vigil:

5.30pm

Sunday: 8.00am &
10.00am

Monday-Saturday:
9.00am

Anointing Mass:

First Friday of each
month at 9am Mass

Prayer of the Church:

Saturday: 8.45am &
Novena at 9am Mass

Reconciliation:

Saturday: After 9am
Mass

Rosary Group:

Each Friday: 3:30pm
in Parish Centre

Exposition:

Every Thursday
9.30am - 6.45pm
with Benediction at
6.45pm

PALM SUNDAY PASSION OF THE LORD Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 March 2021

Holy Week & Easter Roster



Holy Week

1st APRIL - HOLY THURSDAY

N.B. NO 9AM MASS &

NO EXPOSITION OF THE HOLY SACRAMENT

VIGIL MASS: 7PM

2nd APRIL - GOOD FRIDAY

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: 10AM,
FOLLOWED BY DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

COMMEMORATION OF THE PASSION: 3PM

3rd APRIL - HOLY SATURDAY

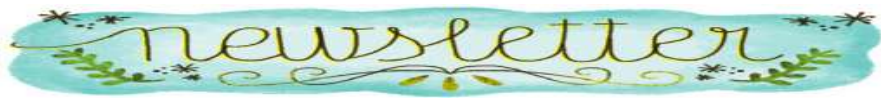
EASTER BASKET BLESSING: 10AM

VIGIL MASS 7.30PM

4th APRIL - EASTER SUNDAY

MASS: 9AM





Easter Offering Envelope

Money donated in this year's Easter Offering envelope will, as it has in previous years, go to the Redemptorist community. This will be the last year money raised by way of this collection will go to the Redemptorists.

Finance Committee

EASTER VOLUNTEERS

are required for our Easter Ceremonies.

If you are able to assist, please enter your name on the sign-up form on the large table in the Entrance Foyer.



CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH

THE WONDERS OF OUR SPIRITUAL FATHER



CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH

Pope Francis declared this year as the Year of St. Joseph. St. Joseph is the Foster Father of Jesus, Patron of the Universal Church and Pillar of Families.

Join the **33 Day Consecration to St. Joseph** starting on March 30 to the Day of Consecration, May 1, the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker. In the midst of crisis, confusion and a world at odds with Christian values, it

is time to entrust ourselves to our spiritual father.

Register at www.marriageandfamily.org.nz or email info@marriageandfamily.org.nz

for more information. - The Centre for Marriage and Family (CMF)



Easter Basket Blessing April 3rd

The Easter basket blessing will once again be held on Holy Saturday, April 3rd, at 10am in the parish Centre. All parishioners are invited to bring a basket to be blessed, filled with a sampling of the food you will be sharing for the Easter meal with your family and friends. Foods that you may want to include in the basket are: boiled eggs, both painted and unpainted, bread, salt, ham, sausages, cake or traditional baking. These foods are symbolic: eggs--Christ's resurrection; salt--purification; ham--abundance.

Please join us!

We'd love to see you! In addition, this year we ask that everyone bring a non-perishable food item to be donated.

Thank you!

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

We will begin praying the Divine Mercy Novena on Good Friday after the Stations of the Cross at 10am. The novena will last for nine days, ending on Divine Mercy Sunday.



Candlelight Vigil for the Unborn

The Youth Group will be joining the Candlelight Vigil for the Unborn this Sunday, March 28th, at 7:30pm at 283 Dominion Rd in Mt. Eden. Everyone is welcome to join the Vigil in prayer. See the notice on the bulletin board in the foyer.



We remember in prayer our parishioners whose anniversaries occur during March: Michael Micallef, Maria Pfeiffer, Andrew Burke, Rosa Worth, Benjamin McGrath, Mary Wallace, Br John Groves CSsR, Anthony Bentinck-Stokes, Nanette Brown, Dedrick Kratyk