



# PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026

## **Gospel 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.

*Our Mission:*  
*Building a Loving Christ-Centred Community*



**Parish Administrator:**

Fr Joy D'Souza OCD

**Chief Executive Officer:**

Michael Darragh

**Administration Officer:**

Jennifer Oliver

**Pastoral Associate:**

Margaret Ryan

**Church**

Corner of East Street & Fourth Avenue, Sawtell

**Parish Office - 02/6658 3544**

1/44 Boronia Street, Sawtell NSW 2452. Office Hours are Monday to Friday, 9am to 3pm.

**Regular Church Mass Times**

Tuesday 9:30am

Thursday 9:30am

Saturday 6pm

Sunday 7:30am & 9am

Reconciliation every Saturday 5:30pm  
no appointment necessary

**Holy Week & Easter Times see back page**

**Regular Chapel Mass Times**

Our Lady of the Way at SCC

Marian Grove, Toormina

Wednesday 9:30am

Friday 9:30am

**PARISH GIVING**

First & Second Collection + Donations



**Holy Week and Easter Mass Ministries**

We need your help for these liturgies & Masses. Please put your name on the sheet if you are attending and can help out. Available at the entrance doors. Rosters for Holy Week & Easter will be finalised by Thursday and emailed out through the Weekly Update. Please ensure you have a) either noted what you have volunteered for and when or b) have signed up for and receive the emailed Bulletin & Weekly Update.

**Easter Closing**

The parish office will be closed from 12noon on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>, re-opening on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April.

**Bishop Greg's Easter Message**

Please see insert in this Bulletin.

**Holy Thursday**

Please note that the only Mass on Holy Thursday - 2nd April, is the 6pm Thursday of the Lord's Supper.

**Divine Mercy Sunday**



Sunday, 12th April will be the Feast of Divine Mercy.

This day was instigated on 30th April in the Jubilee Year 2000, by Saint John Paul II. On this Feast, Jesus promised Sr Faustina in 1930, that people throughout the world celebrating this day by receiving the Eucharist and going to Reconciliation (within 7 days either side of the feast) 'would receive complete forgiveness of their sins and all punishment due because of them'. All are invited to celebrate this feast at 3pm in the church.

### First Reading Isaiah 50:4-7

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

### Second Reading Philippians 2:6-11

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.2  
(R.) My God, my God,  
why have you abandoned me?

### Gospel Acclamation Philippians 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!

# First Holy Communion



Please pray for...

Recently Deceased - Samuel Leis,  
Don Burrige, Michael Maxwell  
The Sick - Yvonne Little, Sally Towns  
Carolyn Mash, Peter Rose, Mercy Kurinyepa

Holy Week & Easter Rosters  
will be emailed on Thursday  
with The Bulletin and Weekly  
Update - see entrance doors  
for the latest edition or to  
add your name.  
Please help if you can.

## 2026 Holy Week & Easter

**Holy Thursday - 2<sup>nd</sup> April**  
at 6pm with Adoration to 8pm

**Good Friday - 3<sup>rd</sup> April**  
Stations of the Cross at 9:30am  
Passion of the Lord at 3pm

**Saturday Easter Vigil - 4<sup>th</sup> April 2026**  
at 7pm

**Easter Sunday - 5<sup>th</sup> April 2026**  
7:30am & 9am  
Easter Eggs for the kids

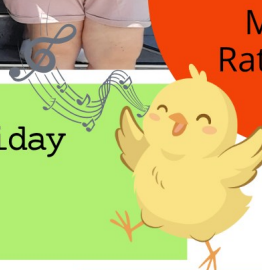
Liturgies &  
Masses at  
MHOC  
Church



**BOAMBEE JOSEPHITES**  
We had  
representatives  
from the Sydney  
Regional Office of  
JCoLT (Josephite  
Companions  
Leadership Team)  
visiting us. The  
visitors were  
Antoinette  
Magnion, Lyn  
Ratray and Geoff  
Bartlet.

### Choir Practice for Holy Week & Easter

The choir will be singing at Holy Thursday, Good Friday  
& Easter Vigil. Practice is Tuesday in the church  
7pm-8pm, 31<sup>st</sup> March. All voices welcome!



### The Catholic Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office

the Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding  
Office can be contactable if you have  
any Safeguarding concerns. We  
will listen to you respectfully; offer  
support and discuss options you have  
available to you. Contact the Safeguarding Office -  
Phone: (02) 6621 9444 or  
Email: [safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au](mailto:safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au)



**EVERY TUESDAY**  
**CENACLE**  
**ROSARY**  
**3PM IN**  
**THE CHURCH**  
**ALL WELCOME**

