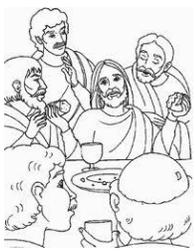


The events of Holy Week

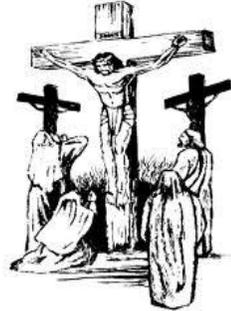
This coming week is Holy week, one of the most important times in the church's liturgical calendar. Holy Week is the last week of Lent, when we follow Jesus from the events of Palm Sunday, the Sunday of the Passion, to his death on the Cross on Good Friday and finally to his Resurrection from the dead on Easter Sunday.

Palm Sunday		Sunday 29 th March 2015	
<p>In the time of Jesus...</p>  <p>Jesus enters Jerusalem on a colt accompanied by his disciples. The crowds were overjoyed to see him and covered the streets ahead of him with cloaks and palms.</p>	<p>For us in 2015...</p> <p>This weekend, we re-enact the arrival of Jesus into Jerusalem by starting our service with a special procession to receive our palms. Palms are blessed as we all process into church. We listen to the Gospel account of the Passion of Jesus which sets the scene for the week.</p> <p>We celebrate our Palm Sunday and our School-Parish Mass on Saturday 28th March at 7pm.</p> 		
Monday		Monday 30 th March 2015	
<p>In the time of Jesus...</p> <p>Jesus chases the money-changers out of the temple saying that his Father's house is a place of prayer.</p> 	<p>For us in 2015...</p> <p>As Lent draws rapidly to a close, we reflect on whether we have become people of prayer.</p>		
Tuesday & Wednesday		Tuesday 31 st March and Wednesday 1 st April 2015	
<p>In the time of Jesus...</p>  <p>Jesus preached and taught in the temple in Jerusalem while the Chief Priests plotted on how they could capture Jesus.</p>	<p>For us in 2015...</p>  <p>During this week, a Chrism Mass (or the Mass of the Oils) is celebrated in every Cathedral throughout the world when the Bishop of the Diocese blesses the Oils to be used by Parishes for Baptism, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick and Holy Orders. In our Diocese this is celebrated at the Cathedral in Hamilton at 7pm on Tuesday 31st March 2015. Members of our parish and Whaea Em will attend this Mass and bring back the Oils to our community. All priests are expected to attend this celebration with their Bishop who leads them in a re-commitment of their priestly vocation.</p>		
Holy Thursday		Thursday 2 nd April 2015	
<p>In the time of Jesus...</p>  <p>Jesus calls his disciples together to celebrate the Jewish Feast called the Passover and washes their feet. He later eats with them instituting the Sacrament of Holy Communion/Eucharist as he says the words 'This is my Body... this is my Blood'</p>  <p>Later Jesus takes his closest disciples into the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus goes to pray. It is here that Jesus is arrested.</p> <p>He is taken before Chief Priests in the Jewish court, the Sanhedrin.</p> <p>Peter follows and is questioned whether he is a follower of Jesus by various people. He denies this.</p>	<p>For us in 2015...</p> <p>Thursday 2nd April is our last day of school for this term and we recall the events of Holy Week by participating in the Holy Week Walk liturgy, starting in the Hall at 2pm.</p>  <p>Later as a parish community, we celebrate the Mass of the Last Supper (at 7.30pm in Paeroa) at which time we will re-enact Jesus' actions of washing the feet of disciples (in our case some parishioners).</p> <p>We celebrate the 'last' Eucharist and as the liturgy concludes the Blessed Sacrament is removed from the church as we too enter into the time of remembrance of Jesus' persecution.</p> <p>After this service, we are encouraged to 'stay awhile and pray.'</p>		

In the time of Jesus...



Jesus is taken to the Roman Court, before Pontius Pilate. He is questioned closely. He is whipped and scourged and taken by Pontius Pilate out before the people. The crowds reply is 'Crucify Him! Crucify Him!'.



Jesus takes up his cross and is taken through the streets of Jerusalem and out to the place of the skull – Golgotha. There he is crucified. After three hours nailed to a cross **Jesus dies.** Later in the day, as it is almost the day of the Sabbath, Jesus' body is removed from the cross and placed in a tomb nearby with a large stone covering the entrance. A sentry is placed at the entrance so that Jesus' body is not stolen and the story spread that Jesus had risen from the dead (as he had foretold he would).

For us in 2015...

Good Friday is a fasting day where Catholics are to abstain from meat.

We commemorate the Passion of Jesus at a service that starts at **3pm on Friday 3rd April 2015 in Morrinsville.**

This ceremony has the following parts :

1. The Reading of the Passion of Jesus
2. Solemn Prayers of the Faithful
3. Veneration of the Cross
4. Holy Communion



In the time of Jesus...

As this day is the day of the Sabbath, Jesus' body is left to lie in the tomb to be attended to and prepared for a proper burial on the next day.

It is very late in the evening / early morning when the sentry guarding the tomb flee the area and are too frightened to even speak of what they saw.

For us in 2015...

The church is bare of cloths and the tabernacle is empty and open.

On this day we remember and pray with Jesus in the tomb.



There are no church services during the day, but a vigil in the evening.

In the time of Jesus...

It is early morning and the women arrive at the tomb to see that the stone is rolled back from the entrance. They enter into the tomb and are told that Jesus has risen from the dead.



They rush off to tell the Apostles.



For us in 2015...

Our Lenten observances are over...

Easter Vigil The vigil is divided into four parts:

1. Service of light – the Pascal Candle is lit
2. Liturgy of the Word.
3. Liturgy of Baptism – Renewal of Baptismal promises.
4. Liturgy of the Eucharist.



In our church this begins on **Saturday 4th April at 7.30pm in Te Aroha.**

Mass of the Resurrection

We celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord with a special Resurrection Mass at **10am on Sunday 5th April 2015 in Morrinsville.**

