

MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK 6 APRIL 2020. Is 42: 1-7. Ps 36:5-11 Jn 12:1-11. Our attention is now focused on the great mystery of Christ, dying and rising. The sense of impending doom hovers over the actions of Jesus. Like a lamb led to the slaughter, Christ does not cry out or shout aloud. Mary's anointing becomes one of preparation of the body for burial after death. All things are being readied for the final hour.

TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK 7 APRIL 2020 Is 49:1-7. Ps 71:1-14, Jn 12:21-38. The words of Isaiah speak beautifully of our vocation in Christ. Chosen before birth, given great gifts of body and mind, called to be servant of the Most High, and destined to be a light of the nations so that Christ's salvation may be brought to the ends of the earth. Such is our destiny. And yet, we can fail. We can reject this calling, give way to weakness. Both Judas and Peter in their weakness are put before us today, one to betray, the other to deny. So close to Jesus and yet capable of losing him.

WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK 8 APRIL 2020 Is 50: 4-9. Ps 70, 33-34, John 13: 1-7, 31-35. Spy Wednesday" we call it – for Judas has left his mark on our calendars. The pain of his betrayal and the thirty pieces of silver goes into language currency ever since. At the end of this lent, which has seen us trying to purify ourselves of all that is not Christian, these thirty pieces of silver come before us as a warning.

HOLY THURSDAY 9 APRIL 2020 Is 49: 1-7, Ps 116:1-18, John 13: 1-35, Christ redeemed us all and gave perfect glory to God principally through his paschal mystery: dying he destroyed our death and rising he restored our life. Therefore the Easter Triduum of the Passion and Resurrection of Christ is the culmination of the entire liturgical year. The celebration of the paschal mystery is not simply a recalling of past events in history. It is a sacramental celebration that renders present and actualises the saving power of Christ's death and Resurrection to the Church.

GOOD FRIDAY 10 APRIL 2019 CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION

Is 52: 13-53:12, Ps 22, Jn 18:1-19:42. Saint John's account of the Passion is more reflective and theological. He emphasises Jesus' obedience to the Father's will. The kingship of Jesus is asserted: the crucifixion is a victory, the hour of death is also the hour triumph. 'Christ gives his life, he is "lifted up" on the Cross, but willingly'. In contemplating the Cross of its Lord, the Church commemorates its own origin and its mission to extend to all peoples the blessed effects of Christ's Passion that it celebrates on this day in a spirit of thanksgiving for his marvellous gift.

HOLY SATURDAY 11 APRIL 2020 EASTER VIGIL. John 14: 1-14, Psalm 31: 1-8, Matthew 27:57-66. In accord with ancient tradition, this night is one of vigil for the Lord. Saint Augustine called it 'the mother of all vigils'. The Gospel of Saint Luke reminds the faithful to have their lamps burning ready, awaiting their master's return, so that when he arrives he will find them wide awake and will seat them at his table.

EASTER SUNDAY 12 APRIL 2020 – EASTER DAY OF THE LORD'S RESURRECTION

Acts 10:34-43. Ps 117:1-2, 14 -24, Matthew 28: 1-10. 'CHRIST IS RISEN, ALLELUIA!' This is the ancient Christian greeting on this day of great joy and happiness for all. Easter is not simply one feast among others, but the "Feast of feasts". Holy Week, which is the culmination of the 40-day Lenten period, is the most solemn period for Christians worldwide, who celebrate the solemn mysteries of Christ's passion, death and resurrection.

MAY YOU HAVE A BLESSED AND HOLY EASTER 2020. KEEP SAFE AND ALWAYS KNOW THAT GOD IS WITH US ALL.