

*A Reflection from Fr. Joseph*

It was Palm Sunday, but because of a sore throat, 5-year-old Johnny stayed home from church with a sitter. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds. Johnny asked them what they were for. "People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by," his father told him. "Wouldn't you know it," Johnny fumed, "the one Sunday I don't go and he shows up."



Today's first Gospel reading relates the story of Christ's entry into Jerusalem, and the second - still in St Luke's Gospel - takes us on a much shorter journey, to the hill outside the city, to the Place of the Skull.

This last journey is much shorter, but much harder. It is not accompanied by shouts of joy but cries of lamentation. The way out of Jerusalem today is not strewn with clothes people have torn off in their excitement, but only with the condemned man's sweat and blood. This short journey on the Way of the Cross is harder to stomach.

It is, perhaps, too hard to stomach for many people today. There are so many people who are happy to accompany Jesus on his journey into Jerusalem by embracing - or at least, thinking that they embrace - his teaching. But when the cheering and clapping has died down, do we stay with him? Or would we rather stay in Jerusalem, to enjoy the feast, than follow Jesus to that lonely hill, to see him nailed to a tree? Is it not tempting to separate Jesus the Teacher from Jesus the Martyr? How often have we heard that Jesus was obviously a wise and holy man, but all that religion, all that dogma, *that* we just can't buy into...?

Because it is in His Passion and His Cross that Jesus lives out his own teaching, showing us what a true disciple's life must be like. We stay with Jesus to this bitter end because He doesn't say 'Follow me' but '**Take up your Cross and follow me.**'

And we are glad that we have stayed, glad with a deeper, fuller joy than the shrill cheering of the crowd. Glad because staying with Jesus, all the way to Calvary, means sharing in the bread of life, drinking from the cup of salvation, and hearing Christ say to us, '**Today you will be with me in paradise.**'



Holy Week is the week which precedes the great feast of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday - it includes the last days of Lent and the beginning of the Easter Triduum. During Holy Week, the Church celebrates the mysteries of salvation accomplished by Christ in the last days of his life on earth, beginning with his messianic entrance into Jerusalem.

**DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Mon. Apr. 15<sup>th</sup> - Is. 42:1-7; John 12:1-11  
 Tue. Apr. 16<sup>th</sup> - Is. 49:1-6; John 13:21-33, 36-38  
 Wed. Apr. 17<sup>th</sup> - Is. 50:4-9a; Mat. 26:14-26  
 Thurs. Apr. 18<sup>th</sup> - HOLY THURSDAY  
 Chrism Mass: Is. 61:1-3a,6a,8b-9; Rev. 1:4-8; Lk. 4:16-21  
 Mass of the Lord's Supper: Ex. 12:1-8,11-14; 1Cor. 11:23-26; Jn. 13:1-15  
 Fri. Apr. 19<sup>th</sup> - FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD  
 Is. 52:13-53:12; Heb. 4:14-16, 5:7-9; John. 18:1-19:42  
 Sat. Apr. 20<sup>th</sup> - HOLY SATURDAY  
 The entire Liturgy of the Word  
 Sun. Apr. 21<sup>st</sup> - EASTER SUNDAY (solemnity)  
 Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Col. 3:1-4 or 1 Cor. 5:6b-8; John. 20:1-18



**PLEASE BE REMINDED THAT GOOD FRIDAY IS A DAY OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE.**

**HOLY LAND COLLECTION**

Each year, on Good Friday, there is a Pontifical collection for the Holy Land in support of the Christian communities, to fund the work of the Holy Land, the upkeep of the Holy Sites and the formation of future priests. Please give generously.

**LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICE - IN OUR AREA.**  
 - Tuesday, Apr. 16<sup>th</sup> at St. Mary's Parish at 7 pm  
 - Thursday, Apr. 18<sup>th</sup> at Our Lady of Sorrows at 7 pm



**ALTAR SERVERS**

**Servers are reminded to please sign-up for the Easter schedule of Masses in the sacristy.**

**THE CHRISM MASS**

Join Archbishop Miller and the priests of our Archdiocese, this coming Wednesday, Apr. 17<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm at Holy Rosary Cathedral, for one of the most solemn and significant liturgies of our church. All are welcome to attend!



## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sat. Apr. 13 <sup>th</sup>	5 pm Mass for the int. of Michelle Lui
Sun. Apr. 14 <sup>th</sup>	9 am Mass for Enzo Rossetti, R.I.P. 11 am Mass for Shu Wing Law, R.I.P. 5 pm Mass for parishioners
Mon. Apr. 15 <sup>th</sup>	8 am Mass for Eling Alfon, R.I.P.
Tue. Apr. 16 <sup>th</sup>	8 am Mass for Humberto Almeida, R.I.P.
Wed. Apr. 17 <sup>th</sup>	9 am Mass for Benjamin Laureola Jr., R.I.P. 7:30 pm Novena Mass
Thur. Apr. 18 <sup>th</sup>	NO 8:00 am Mass 7:00 pm Mass for the int. of M. Consuelo Belmonte
Fri. Apr. 19 <sup>th</sup>	NO 8:00 am Mass 3:00 pm Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
Sat. Apr. 20 <sup>th</sup>	No 9:00 am Mass

## CHURCH VISITATION ON HOLY THURSDAY

Our Parish has once again hired a bus, on Holy Thursday, to go visit some of the churches in our area. The bus will leave our parking lot after our Mass, at 8:30 pm and return at approximately 12:30 am. The cost is \$15/person and includes tip. As there are only 47 seats, it will be on a first come first served basis. Sign-up after the Masses this weekend or call Bella Mislang at 604-765-1476 or Roma Tactac at 604-786-7857 to reserve your seat. Don't delay as they sell-out fast.

### Children's Liturgy - Volunteers needed

Do you have a love for children and the Word of God? Are you creative and patient? We are seeking volunteers for Children's Liturgy which is held at the 11:00 am Sunday Masses. If you are interested call Anita at 778-838-4559 or [anita.s.hua@gmail.com](mailto:anita.s.hua@gmail.com)

## SQUIRETTES NEWS

- Membership Drive: will be held on Apr. 28<sup>th</sup>.

## SCHOOL NEWS

- School Mass: Wednesday at 9 am. Join us!
- Passion Play: Thursday, Apr. 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 am in the school gymnasium. Presented by the gr. 5 students.
- Early Dismissal: Thursday, Apr. 18<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon.

## ST. JUDE'S ANNUAL

# Easter Egg Hunt

Sponsored by our Squirettes



will be held on Easter Sunday

April 21<sup>st</sup>, after the 9 & 11 am Masses, Rain or Shine, for children 0 to 12 years of age. Join us!

# ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

## Up-Coming Events

### Stewardship Reflection

*"I tell you, Peter, before the cock crows this day, you will deny three times that you know me"* (Luke 22:34)

How many times have you heard someone make a disparaging comment about Jesus or our Catholic faith? How did you react? Do you remain quiet not to cause a disturbance? Or, do you remain quiet because you believe people will think negatively about you? Pray for the courage to speak up and enter into a respectful dialogue when the opportunity arises.

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### Stations of the Cross - Good Friday

Join us for Way of the Cross at Queen Elizabeth Park Friday, April 19, starting 10 a.m. at the fountains next to Bloedel's conservatory parking lot proceeding through the trails of the park with prayers, meditations and songs. For more information, contact [communionliberationvancouver@gmail.com](mailto:communionliberationvancouver@gmail.com).

### Quo Vadis - Men's Discernment Events

Open to single Catholic men ages 18+ who want to answer the question: What is God calling me to do with my life? Join us for a Discernment Evening with Fr. Juan Lucca who will be talking about celibacy Wednesday, April 24, 7-9 p.m. at St. Patrick's Parish, Van. Please register at least one week in advance by contacting the Vocations Office at [vocations@rcav.org](mailto:vocations@rcav.org) or call 604-443-3254.

### Who Am I?

Join us for a weekend workshop to help you discover the gifts you bring to parish work; improve your relationships in leadership; increase your productivity in parish ministry; and develop your unique strengths as a parish leader, coordinator, or catechist. April 27-28 and May 4-5, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at John Paul II Pastoral Centre, Van. Register here: <https://rcav.org/event/who-am-i-9>

### Fiat: Women's Discernment Events - Fun Night

Open to single, Catholic young women ages 18-35 who are open to discerning and responding to God's call in their life. Takes place on Saturday, April 27, 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Good Counsel Convent in Surrey. E-mail [womensvocations@rcav.org](mailto:womensvocations@rcav.org) for more information.

### Dying Healed

All are invited to the Dying Healed program by LifeCanada Sat., Apr. 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am - 3:30 pm. Receive formation and knowledge on end-of-life issues, understanding of human suffering, human dignity, and the power of human presence. Cost \$45/person. Workbook, lunch, & refreshments included. Register: <https://rcav.org/event/dying-healed>

### Marriage Anniversary Mass 2019

Celebrate your Milestone Anniversary with us! This Mother's Day, Archbishop Miller will be honouring couples celebrating their 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th, 55th & 60th+ years of marriage. Mass will be on Sunday, May 12, at 3:30 p.m. at St. Paul Parish, Richmond. Reception to follow in St. Paul Parish Centre. Register your anniversary with us today at: [rcav.org/marriage-anniversary](http://rcav.org/marriage-anniversary). All are welcome to witness and celebrate the milestone anniversaries of others! Register today: <https://rcav.org/marriage-anniversary>

**Rachel's Vineyard Retreat**

*"I stretch out my hands toward you, my soul to you like a parched land."* – Psalm 143:6

Has your soul felt dry and without life since your abortion experience? Your Rachel's Vineyard™ Retreat team has been there and wants nothing more than to walk with you as you stretch out your hands to God for His mercy. You are not alone. Join us on our next Retreat in May 2019. For confidential info and to register contact 604-525-0999.