

Your love disarms all our refusals, and you bring us forgiveness and peace. We come to you, then, with confident trust, knowing we shall have mercy and grace when in need of help.

We lift up to you this holy day those members of your Body suffering throughout the world: all who are carrying heavy burdens, we thank you for those witnessing to your loving kindness in the midst of humanity's need with countless acts of generosity.

As we pray for the suffering members of your Body throughout the world, by your cross, give strength; by your cross, bring hope, by your cross, disarm our fears and hardness of heart. You, who are lifted up from the earth, draw all people to yourself. There in your wide embrace, grant us healing and peace. Amen.

### HOLY SATURDAY

On this most Holy Night a candle is lit to scatter the darkness in our lives. May we be reminded of the eternal light that the Rising of our Lord from the dead shares with us.

*At the beginning of this prayer ritual, people may wish, if they can, to go out to their garden and into the darkness of the night. One person lights the main candle and says the following:*

May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds, and bring us hope, peace and newness of life.

*Quiet reflection*

On this blessed night we give you thanks, Lord God, that your light has come into our world to overcome the darkness. May its flame burn ever bright in our hearts that we may be filled everyday with the joy of our Easter faith. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



### EASTER SUNDAY

*'On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.'* Lk24:1-5



We encourage you to consider creating an Easter Garden at home.

Easter gardens are a special way to celebrate Easter. Tradition is that an Easter garden is built to remind us of the garden where Jesus rose from the dead. The Easter garden should be colourful and full of joy to reflect the Easter story of joy in the Resurrection. It remains in place for fifty days of Easter up until Pentecost.

### AN EASTER LITANY

*This is the day the Lord has made.*

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Let us rejoice and be glad.*

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*God's love has no end.*

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*God has raised us up.*

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*And given us the gift of new life.*

*Alleluia, alleluia!*



*Celebrating  
Holy Week  
at Home  
this Year...*



A guide to help us journey through these days.



## PALM SUNDAY

On Palm Sunday we commemorate Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem before the days of his passion and crucifixion. Great crowds had gathered to welcome the famous preacher and miracle worker from Galilee. How fickle people can be! In only a few days, many of that same crowd are shouting 'Crucify him', 'Crucify him!' as they demand of Pilate that Jesus be brutally put to death.



As we commemorate this entry of Jesus, we are invited to decorate our doors with palm branches, to begin with him this journey through Holy Week.



**Increase O Lord our faith, as we place our hope in you, and graciously hear the prayers of our hearts as we call on you, that we who adorn our entrances with branches, to hail Christ, may bear fruit for you by good works. Through Christ Our Lord.**

Holy Week is the most important week of the year for us as Christians. It lasts from Palm Sunday until Easter Sunday and reaches its highpoint in what we call the Easter Triduum – those three great days from the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper to Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday.

Reflecting on the Scriptures and turning to ritual and symbols, Christians throughout the world, journey with Jesus through those final days of his life, his passion, his death and resurrection.

In the process, we experience God's redemptive presence, our faith is deepened, our hope is renewed and our commitment to living a life of love of God and one another is strengthened.

It is again a different way of joining in our celebrations this year. The restrictions in place mean that as a Christian Community we cannot gather together for our usual religious services, but this will not prevent us from uniting spiritually and taking time to pray, to reflect and to make this Holy Week a truly enriching experience of the presence of God in our lives. This guide is to assist us in walking the journey of Holy Week 2021, at home, online, and in our visits to the church.



## TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

Today in St Mel's Cathedral the Chrism Mass takes place, where the Holy Oils used for Baptism, Confirmation and the Anointing of the Sick are Blessed and Consecrated. The Priests are invited during this Mass to renew their vows.

We will not be able to attend in person, but we are invited to pray for those who will receive the Sacraments as well as our Priests and Bishop, who administer them.

***Dear Friends today let us pray for our priests, that the Lord may pour out his gifts abundantly upon them, so that they may lead us all to you, Lord, who is the source of salvation. Amen.***

We are invited to join the Chrism Mass online at 7.00p.m. on Longford Parish Website.

## SPY WEDNESDAY

Today has always been associated with the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We are invited to reflect on our lives and truly acknowledge the times we have not lived as Jesus has called us to.



***Lord our God, source of all goodness and mercy we set this time aside to seek your forgiveness. Give us true sorrow for our failings, and give us a loving trust in your compassion. Grant us to clearly see our own sins and not to judge our neighbour.***

***O my God, I thank You for loving me. I am sorry for all my sins, for not loving others and not loving You. Help me to live like Jesus and not sin again. Amen***

***Lord God, your goodness and mercy are boundless. We thank you for all your gifts and ask you to keep us always as your family. May we grasp with joy the merciful hand you stretch out to us and walk more readily in your ways of living faith, firm hope and sincere love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.***



## HOLY THURSDAY

At the Mass of the Lord's Supper, we normally follow the words of Jesus in the Gospel, and wash the feet of a number of people to reflect his call for us to be a people of service. But this evening we follow that command in a different way.

In its place, we think of all those in our hospitals and care centres and people the whole world over who are pouring out their time, energy, skill, tears and compassion, over all who are sick and in their care.

*(Let us pour water into a bowl and unfold a towel)*

As we pour this water and unfold this towel, let us remember and pray for all medical staff throughout the world; nurses and doctors, care attendants and ambulance staff, support teams and emergency personnel, all who through their care and compassion follow the example of Christ as they support all who are ill.

For when we ask 'Where is God?' tonight the words of scripture remind us:

***God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.*** 1 John 4:16

We light a candle of hope, as all those involved in the fight against Covid-19. Renew our lives and our world in hope.

*(A candle is lit beside the bowl)*



## GOOD FRIDAY

A Prayer while we hold the Cross in our hands.

**Lord Jesus on the Cross, you show your total solidarity with us. You go to the very lowest point of the human condition.**

**In the face of evil and suffering, all you do is give love, with a compassion that excludes no one.**