

Saint Charles Swinton

Parish Newsletter

20 March 2016

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Page 184 in Mass Book.



The Cross As Revealing the Passion

We speak of one section of the Gospels, that which narrates Jesus' life from the Last Supper until his death and burial, as chronicling his "Passion." On Good Friday, the lector begins the Gospel reading with the words: "The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to John."

Why do we call Jesus' suffering just before his death his passion?

Generally this is not properly understood. We tend to think that "passion" here refers to intense sufferings, as in "passionate suffering." This is not wrong, but misses a key point. Passion comes from the Latin, *passio*, meaning passiveness, non-activity, absorbing something more than actively doing anything. The "Passion" of Jesus refers to that time in his life where his meaning for us is not defined by what he was doing but rather by what was being done to him. What is being said here?

The public life and ministry of Jesus can be divided into two distinct parts: For almost all of his public life Jesus was actively doing something. However, from the time he walked out of the last supper room and began to pray in Gethsemane, that activity stops. He is no longer the one who is doing things for others, but the one who is having things done to him. In the garden, they arrest him, bind his hands, lead him to the high priest, then to Pilate. He is beaten, humiliated, stripped of his clothes, and eventually nailed to a cross where he dies. This constitutes his "passion," that time in his life and ministry where he ceases to be the doer and becomes the one who has things done to him. What is so remarkable about this is that our faith teaches us that we are saved more through his passion (his death and suffering) than through all of his activity of preaching and doing miracles. How does this work?
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The Coming Week.....

**Sunday
20 March
Palm Sunday of the
Passion of the Lord.**



Mass 6.00pm (Saturday)
8.45am. 11.00am

3.00pm Stations of the Cross.

6.00pm Ecumenical Worship
at Independent Methodist
church, Hazelhurst Road.

**Monday
21 March
Monday of Holy Week**

10.15am. Funeral Mass for
Bernard Hall Quinn, RIP, aged
78 of Raymond Road,
Pendlebury.

No 8.30am Mass today

**Tuesday
22 March
Tuesday of Holy Week
8.30am Mass**



**Wednesday
23 March
Wednesday of Holy week
"Spy Wednesday"
8.30am Mass**

11.00am Mass of Chrism in the
Cathedral.

2.00pm School Holy Week
Service in Church ~ All
welcome

School closes today

**Thursday
24 March
Maundy Thursday
The Easter Triduum begins**



**7.00pm Mass of the Lord's
Supper** - including the traditional
"Mandatum" (Washing of feet) and
followed by procession to the Altar of
Repose for a time of prayer ending with a
Holy Hour and Night Prayer of the
Church at 10.00pm

**Friday
25 March
Friday of the Lord's
Passion - "Good Friday"**

Good Friday Walk of Witness
As in past years with Churches Together
in Swinton and Pendlebury, meet at
12.00noon near the Halifax Bank.

**3.00pm Celebration of the
Lord's Passion with Liturgy of
the Word, Veneration of the Cross
and Holy Communion.**

**Good Friday is a day of Fasting
and Abstinence**

**Saturday
26 March
Holy Saturday
No Mass in Cemetery today.**

11.30am - 12.00noon Sacrament of
Reconciliation.

**8.30pm Easter Vigil
celebration with blessing of the
New Fire, the Easter Candle, singing
of the Easter Proclamation
("Exsultet"), blessing of water,
renewal of Baptismal Promises and
Eucharist. (No 6.00pm Mass today)**

**Sunday
27 March
Easter Sunday of the
Resurrection of the Lord.**

Churches Together Dawn Service
on Swinton Town Hall Steps 7.00am.

Mass at 8.45am and 11.00am.

Allow me an illustration: Ten years ago, my sister, Helen, an Ursuline nun, died of cancer. A nun for more than thirty years, she much loved her vocation and was much loved within it. For most of those thirty years, she served as a den-mother to hundreds of young women who attended an academy run by her order. She loved those young women and was for them a mother, an older sister, and a mentor. For the last twenty years of her life, after our own mother died, she also served in that same capacity for our family, organizing us and keeping us together. Through all those years she was the active-one, the consummate-doer, the one that others expected to take charge. She relished the role. She loved doing things for others.

Nine months before she died, cancer struck her brutally and she spent the last months of her life bed-ridden. Now things needed to be done for her and to her. Doctors, nurses, her sisters in community, and others, took turns taking care of her. And, like Jesus from the time of his arrest until the moment of his death, her body too was humiliated, led around by others, stripped, prodded, and stared at by curious passers-by. Indeed, like Jesus, she died thirsty, with a sponge held to her lips by someone else. This was her passion. She, the one who had spent so many years doing things for others, now had to submit to having things done to her. But, and this is the point, like Jesus, she was able in that period of her life, when she was helpless and no longer in charge, to give life and meaning to others in a deeper way than she could when she was active and doing things for others.

There's great lesson in this, not the least of which is how we view the terminally ill, the severely handicapped, and the sick. There's a lesson too on how we might understand ourselves when we are ill, helpless, and in need of care from others.

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The cross teaches us that we, like Jesus, give as much to others in our passivities as in our activities. When we are no longer in charge, beaten down by whatever, humiliated, suffering, and unable even to make ourselves understood by our loved ones, we are undergoing our passion and, like Jesus in his passion, have in that the opportunity to give our love and ourselves to others in a very deep way.

Fr. Ron Rolheiser

Parish meeting and Diocesan Process.

Thank to all who attended the meeting (fifteen I think) and for the discussion we had. I have copied some of the notes distributed at the meeting, one is statistics of parishes/priests/mass attendance/numbers of priests etc. The other, notes from one of the bishop's presentations to the recent priests' meeting. They are worth reading.

Even more accessible is....



Radio Interview with Bishop John.

You will find this via the diocesan website broadcast last week on "Heaven's Radio FM" and hear the bishop talking about the diocesan process.

29th July - 4th August Salford Diocese Pilgrimage to Lourdes



For initial information see poster in the porch. Volunteers also needed from Medical staff, Lay volunteers, youth group and singers. If you can help please call the Pilgrimage office on 0161 817 2209.

Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent

If you are unable to get to Confession here during lent, please see notice in porch with details of times in other parishes in our Deanery.



Shoe Box Appeal.

As mentioned in previous newsletters, cubs and beavers are collecting specific items each month.

This month it is Wind-up torches.

Thanks for....

Cafod Lenten Fast Collection - £692.42. - Thank You letter on notice board.

The Brownies and Rainbows thank everyone who supported their Fund Raising Sale last weekend. £144.68 was raised and all the girls thank you all very much. Those who supported the cubs and

Cubs' Pampering evening for Lauren's India project - made £80

Maunder Thursday Washing of Feet.

As always I invite you to volunteer for this part of the Maunder Thursday ritual at the Mass of the Lord's Supper. There is a list at the back of church.



A member of Churches Together in Swinton and Pendlebury

Parish Priest: Rev Mgr Paul F Smith STL • ☎ 0161 794 1089 • ✉ paul.smith@dioceseofsalford.org.uk website: www.stcharlesswinton.co.uk

MASS TIMES

Saturday: 6.00 pm (First Mass of Sunday)

Sunday

- 8.45 am (Church Parade every second Sunday of the month)
- 11.00 am (with children's Liturgy of the Word)

Monday to Friday: usually 8.30 am

Holy Days

7.30 pm (eve), 8.30 am

Registered Charity No. 250037

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays: 11.30 am to 12.00 noon and after evening Mass

BAPTISMS

By appointment. Parents are expected to attend a course of preparation.

WEDDINGS

Six months notice is normally required.

Saint Vincent de Paul Society
Monthly as announced

Union of Catholic Mothers
First and third Tuesdays at 7.00pm

Beaver Scouts

Mondays in school at 6.00pm

Cub Scouts

Tuesdays in school at 6.00 pm

Brownies

Wednesdays in school at 6.00 pm

Rainbows

Thursdays in school at 6.00 pm

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