

MARCH

CELEBRATING THE SEASONS

TUESDAY 19TH MARCH

Saint Joseph

Joseph was likely born in the small town of Bethlehem, where Jesus was also born, but he moved to Nazareth with Mary and Jesus after returning from Egypt in order to keep Jesus safe from Archelaus, the ruler of Judea. Though there are a number of apocryphal writings about him from the first several centuries, nothing is known about him for certain except what is contained in the Gospels.

Saint Joseph was truly the father of Jesus. Of this truth, Saint Augustine writes, "By reason of their faithful marriage, both of them deserve to be called Christ's parents, not only his mother but also his father, who was a parent in the same way that he was the mother's spouse: in mind, not in the flesh." Joseph's fatherhood is also clearly established by the fact that the angel gave him the responsibility of naming Jesus. "She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus..." (Matthew 1:21).

Saint Joseph was obedient to the Father in Heaven, and that obedience deepened his union with Mary his spouse, making their marriage the ideal family for the Son of God. Pope Saint John Paul II speaks of this fact in his apostolic exhortation *Guardian of the Redeemer*, when he says, "One can say that what Joseph did united him in an altogether special way to the faith of Mary. He accepted as truth, coming from God, the very thing that she had already accepted at the Annunciation"

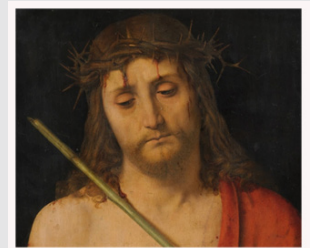


SUNDAY 24TH - SUNDAY 31ST MARCH

Holy Week 2024

It is still uncertain when Christians first began to make an annual (as opposed to a weekly) memorial of the death and resurrection of Christ. This Pascha (a word derived indirectly from *pesach*, Hebrew 'Passover') was at first a night-long vigil, followed by the celebration of the Eucharist at cock-crow, and all the great themes of redemption were included within it: incarnation, suffering, death, resurrection, glorification. Over time, the Pascha developed into the articulated structure of Holy Week and Easter. Through participation in the whole sequence of services, the Christian shares in Christ's own journey, from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the empty tomb on Easter morning. The procession with palms, which was already observed in Jerusalem in the fourth century, is accompanied by the reading or singing of the Passion Narrative, in which the whole story of the week is anticipated. Maundy Thursday (from *mandatum*, 'commandment', because of the use of John 13.34 in the Antiphon) contains a rich complex of themes: humble Christian service expressed through Christ's washing of his disciples' feet, the institution of the Eucharist, the perfection of Christ's loving obedience through the agony of Gethsemane.

After keeping vigil ('Could you not watch with me one hour?') Thursday passes into Good Friday with its two characteristic episodes. The veneration of the Cross is older; the sequence of meditations and music known as the Three Hours' Devotion was introduced into the Church of England in the nineteenth century. The first is now sometimes incorporated into the structure of the second. It is a widespread custom for there not to be a celebration of the Eucharist on Good Friday, but for the consecrated bread and wine remaining from the Maundy Thursday Eucharist to be given in communion. The church remains stripped of all decoration. It continues bare and empty through the following day, which is a day without a liturgy: there can be no adequate way of recalling the being dead of the Son of God, other than silence and desolation. But within the silence there grows a sense of peace and completion, and then rising excitement as the Easter Vigil draws near.



HOLY WEEK VIGIL READINGS

Old Testament Readings and Psalms

Genesis 1:1-2:4a and Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26

Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13 and Psalm 46

Genesis 22:1-18 and Psalm 16

Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21 and Exodus 15:1b-13, 17-18

Isaiah 55:1-11 and Isaiah 12:2-6

Baruch 3:9-15, 3:32-4:4 or Proverbs 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6 and Psalm 19

Ezekiel 36:24-28 and Psalm 42, 43

Ezekiel 37:1-14 and Psalm 143

Zephaniah 3:14-20 and Psalm 98

New Testament Reading and Psalm

Romans 6:3-11 and Psalm 114

Gospel

Mark 16:1-8

MARCH

LECTIONARY READINGS

- Friday, March 1, 2024: Psalm 19; Exodus 19:9b-15; Acts 7:30-40
- Saturday, March 2, 2024: Psalm 19; Exodus 19:16-25; Mark 9:2-8

Sunday March 3rd - Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17 • Psalm 19 • 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 • John 2:13-22

- Monday, March 4, 2024: Psalm 84; 1 Kings 6:1-4, 21-22; 1 Corinthians 3:10-23
- Tuesday, March 5, 2024: Psalm 84; 2 Chronicles 29:1-11, 16-19; Hebrews 9:23-28
- Wednesday, March 6, 2024: Psalm 84; Ezra 6:1-16; Mark 11:15-19
- Thursday, March 7, 2024: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Genesis 9:8-17; Ephesians 1:3-6
- Friday, March 8, 2024: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Daniel 12:5-13; Ephesians 1:7-14
- Saturday, March 9, 2024: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Numbers 20:22-29; John 3:1-13

Sunday March 10th - Fourth Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9 • Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 • Ephesians 2:1-10 • John 3:14-21

- Monday, March 11, 2024: Psalm 107:1-16; Exodus 15:22-27; Hebrews 3:1-6
- Tuesday, March 12, 2024: Psalm 107:1-16; Numbers 20:1-13; 1 Corinthians 10:6-13
- Wednesday, March 13, 2024: Psalm 107:1-16; Isaiah 60:15-22; John 8:12-20
- Thursday, March 14, 2024: Psalm 51:1-12; Isaiah 30:15-18; Hebrews 4:1-13
- Friday, March 15, 2024: Psalm 51:1-12; Exodus 30:1-10; Hebrews 4:14-5:4
- Saturday, March 16, 2024: Psalm 51:1-12; Habakkuk 3:2-13; John 12:1-11

Sunday March 17th - Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34 • Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16 • Hebrews 5:5-10 • John 12:20-33

- Monday, March 18, 2024: Psalm 119:9-16; Isaiah 43:8-13; 2 Corinthians 3:4-11
- Tuesday, March 19, 2024: Psalm 119:9-16; Isaiah 44:1-8; Acts 2:14-24
- Wednesday, March 20, 2024: Psalm 119:9-16; Haggai 2:1-9, 20-23; John 12:34-50
- Thursday, March 21, 2024: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Deuteronomy 16:1-8; Philippians 2:1-11
- Friday, March 22, 2024: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Jeremiah 33:1-9; Philippians 2:12-18
- Saturday, March 23, 2024: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Jeremiah 33:10-16; Mark 10:32-34, 46-52

Sunday March 24th - Liturgy of the Palms

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 • Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16

HOLY WEEK

- **Monday of Holy Week** Isaiah 42:1-9 • Psalm 36:5-11 • Hebrews 9:11-15 • John 12:1-11
- **Tuesday of Holy Week** Isaiah 49:1-7 • Psalm 71:1-14 • 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 • John 12:20-36
- **Wednesday of Holy Week** Isaiah 50:4-9a • Psalm 70 • Hebrews 12:1-3 • John 13:21-32
- **Maundy Thursday** Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14 • Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 • 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35
- **Good Friday** Isaiah 52:13-53:12 • Psalm 22 • Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
John 18:1-19:42
- **Holy Saturday** Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24 • Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16 • 1 Peter 4:1-8
Matthew 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42
- **Easter Sunday** Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9 • Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 • 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or