

29 March 2026

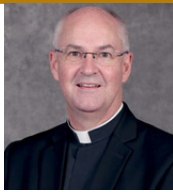
Palm Sunday, Year A

St John Bosco Parish Niddrie

Red is the colour of Royalty



A WORD FROM THE PASTOR..



Dear friends,
As we begin our annual pilgrimage into Holy Week, I encourage each of you to join us for the ceremonies of the Sacred Triduum. These are the most sacred times of the Church's year and our participation in them draws us into the events of the life of Jesus each year. I also encourage you to use the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Easter, that we may receive the Lord with purified hearts and souls at Easter.

You will notice the works outside the presbytery are progressing, and my thanks to those who are doing this work for us as volunteer labour. We are blessed to have the generosity of many who offer their time and talents for the parish. The new meeting room, external access to the office and fencing hope to be completed soon.

There are just two weeks to go for our Easter Raffle which will be drawn on Divine Mercy Sunday. Thank you to those who have supported the raffle so far.

The details for the Divine Mercy Novena are in the bulletin- this will commence on Good Friday and continue each day until Divine Mercy Sunday. It was very encouraging to see a good number take part in this last year. Please do join us.

A reminder that the times for the ceremonies of the Sacred Triduum are in the bulletin- please note there will be no 9.30am Mass on Thursday and Friday- and the Easter Vigil will commence at 6pm (not 5pm as usual Vigil Mass) with the Blessing of the Easter Fire outside the church. Please gather outside the church and candles will be distributed for everyone. Blessed Easter water will be available after the Easter Vigil. We are blessed to be welcoming a young man into the Church at the Easter Vigil in Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist, and a young child for baptism.

Copies of *Melbourne Catholic Digest*, a summary of events around the Church in Melbourne, is available in the foyer at no cost.

Pope: Authorities must pursue ceasefire and peace through dialogue - Vatican News

"I wish to renew the appeal for a ceasefire, to work for peace, but not with weapons—with dialogue, truly seeking a solution for everyone."

Pope Leo XIV renewed that appeal for peace in a brief statement on Tuesday evening to a group of journalists waiting for him outside Villa Barberini, the residence in Castel Gandolfo. Recalling the international situation, the Pope said, "Hatred is increasing, violence keeps getting worse, more than a million people are isolated, and there are so many dead." "We want to pray for peace, but I urge all authorities to truly work through dialogue to resolve problems," the Pope said.

Separately, in his Angelus address on Sunday, Pope Leo XIV had expressed his "dismay" at the situation in the Middle East and in other regions of the world "torn apart by war and violence." "We cannot remain silent in the face of the suffering of so many defenseless people who are victims of these conflicts," the Pope said on that occasion. "What hurts them hurts all of humanity. The death and pain caused by these wars is a scandal for the entire human family and a cry that rises to God!" Pope Leo continued, "I strongly renew my appeal to persevere in prayer, so that hostilities may cease and paths to peace may finally open up, based on sincere dialogue and respect for the dignity of every human person."

Lenten Prayer Campaign

This week you are invited to spiritually adopt a person for the season of Lent to bring to Mass in your heart and prayer each weekend for a particular purpose. This week, try to fast for one meal.. We may not always see the results of our prayers in the way that we wish, but we know that no prayer goes unanswered. Our prayer is an expression of our dependence and trust in the Lord.

Morning Teas

If you would like to assist in helping with a morning tea or supper occasionally on the weekend, please put your name on the sheet in the foyer! We would like to expand the hospitality ministry of the parish.

The Parish of St John Bosco and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and the vulnerable in our community. Protection and the dignity of every person is our responsibility.

Contact Us

Parish Priest
Fr David Cartwright
T: 9337 9994
E: Niddrie@cam.org.au
W: melbournecatholic.org/s/niddrie
F: St John Bosco's Catholic Church Niddrie
Parish Office
29 Muriel Street Niddrie Vic 3042
Mon, Wed, Fri 10am-4pm
Charles Meneze, Secretary

Pray With Us

Holy Mass Times

Wednesday - Friday: 9.30am Mass
Saturday: 5pm Vigil Mass
Sunday: 10.30am Mass
Holy Days and Feast Days as announced

Reconciliation (Confession)

Saturday 4.30pm
First Friday 9am, or any time on request
Please call Fr David on 9337 9994

Rosary

Recited at 9am before weekday Mass

Benediction

First Friday after 9.30am Mass

Baptisms

1st Sunday of the month 11.45am, please contact the office. Or by arrangement.

House Blessings/ Anointing of the Sick

Please contact the presbytery

Support Us

Thank you for your generosity toward our parish: physically, spiritually and financially. If you are not a regular contributor, we invite your support- please contact the Parish Office.

Tap and Go machines are available at the weekend Mass in the narthex.

Direct Credits can also be made:

Presbytery Account (1st collection, for clergy and presbytery support)

- BSB:083 -347 Acc No.: 6616 52479

Parish Account (2nd collection, for parish expenses) BSB:083 - 347 AccNo.: 6568 74974

The parish relies solely on your support. We receive no funding from external sources or the Archdiocese. We thank you for your ongoing support which enables us to continue the work of the Gospel.

"God loves a cheerful giver!"

Parish News

The Daily readings for Mass are now accessible on the parish website. Don't forget to 'Like' and Follow us on Facebook:

St John Bosco's Catholic Church Niddrie and *St John Bosco Young Adults*

New to the Faith? Want to Know More?

Are you interested in becoming a Catholic, seeking baptism & reception in the Church? Please contact the Parish Office or speak to Fr David.

Lenten Timetable

Tuesdays of Lent: (31 March)

- Adoration and Confessions 6.30pm-6.50pm, Mass 7pm

EASTER TIMETABLE

Palm Sunday

Saturday 28 March:

- 4.30pm Confessions; 5pm Vigil Mass.

Sunday 29 March:

- 10.30 am: Blessing of Palms, Procession and Mass

Holy Thursday - 2 April

- 10am: Confessions

- 7pm: Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper-Adoration until 9pm

Good Friday - 3 April

- 10am: Confessions

- 11am: Stations of the Cross

- 3pm: Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Divine Mercy Novena commences

Holy Saturday - 4 April

- 10am: Confessions

- 6pm: Solemn Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday - 5 April

- 10.30am: Easter Day Mass

Easter Raffle

Tickets for our Easter Raffle are now on sale before and after weekend Masses **\$2 per ticket or 3 tickets for \$5**

Thank you for the support of the Easter Raffle. This will enable us to cover the expenses of Easter (holy water bottles, candle cups etc) as well as the two new Bay trees outside the main doors of the church. There are many prizes to choose from and tickets can be purchased before or after weekend Masses. Thank you to our generous prize donors. The Raffle will be drawn on the 2nd Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy, Sunday 12th April, after the 10.30am Mass.

First Friday There will be no First Friday confessions &

Benediction on Friday 3 April

The parish office will close on Wednesday 1 April afternoon at 4pm & reopen on Wednesday 8 April.

Stewardship

The first collection is for the support of the Parish Priest, for retired and sick priests, parishes in need and the Archbishop.

The second collection is for parish expenses like wages, utilities, insurance etc.

Last week:

1st collection: \$911

2nd collection: \$1,787

You can also donate to our Presbytery & Parish accounts using this QR code:



We recall in Prayer

Those who are sick

Maurice & Loretta

Recently Deceased

All the recently deceased in our community
Anniversaries and Remembrances
Betty Gerber

Thought for the Week

Ruffled waters cannot reflect mountain peaks and neither can a troubled heart reflect Christ (John 14:1).

Mass Intentions this week

Wednesday:

Thursday: for an increase in vocations

Friday: No Mass

Saturday: For those received into the Church

Sunday: *Pro populo* (for the people of the parish)

Our Liturgical Life

Posture, song

When the Mass begins everyone stands up. Standing is the posture of the Christian at prayer that expresses our attentiveness to the Word of God and our readiness to carry it out. Often, we begin by singing together to unite our voices in a common word. sdcatholic.org

Our Spiritual Life

Vocal Prayer

Catholics often pray in groups. When two or more people gather together to raise their minds and hearts to God in prayer, their prayer is called communal prayer. Examples of communal prayer include the Rosary, devotional prayers including novenas and litanies, classroom prayers, and, most importantly, the Mass. Standing together at Mass reciting the Creed ('I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth...') is a powerful experience that both expresses and shapes our faith.

From www.rcsouthwark.co.uk

Divine Mercy Novena

Commences Good Friday (3 April) after Stations of the Cross at 11am.

· Holy Saturday (4 April): Rosary & Novena Prayers at 9am; 10am Confessions

· Easter Sunday (5 April): Rosary & Novena at 9am, followed by Easter Mass at 10.30am.

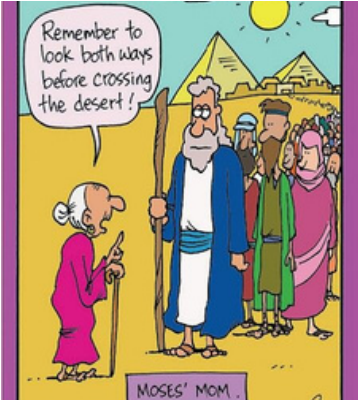
· Easter Monday (6 April) – Saturday 11 April:

Each day: Rosary at 9am, Mass at 9.30am, followed by Novena. Confessions available: 9am to 9.20am.

· Divine Mercy Sunday (12 April): Rosary & Novena at 9am, followed by Mass at 10.30am; Confessions available: 9am to 9.20am. Drawing of Easter Raffle after 10.30am Mass

Wisdom of the Saints

Saint Catherine of Siena: "When we love something we don't care what sort of abuse or injury or pain we might have to endure to get it; we are concerned only with satisfying our desire for the thing we love."



N. For Pilate knew it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. Now as he was seated in the chair of judgement, his wife sent him a message,

O. Have nothing to do with that man; I have been upset all day by a dream I had about him.

N. The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked them:

O. Which of the two do you want me to release for you?

N. They said:

C. Barabbas.

N. Pilate said to them:

O. What am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?

N. They all said:

C. Let him be crucified!

N. Pilate asked:

O. Why? What harm has he done?

N. But they shouted all the louder,

C. Let him be crucified!

N. Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said:

O. I am innocent of this man’s blood. It is your concern.

N. And the people, to a man, shouted back:

C. His blood be on us and on our children!

N. Then he released Barabbas for them. He ordered Jesus to be first scourged and then handed over to be crucified.

The governor’s soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort round him. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying:

C. Hail, king of the Jews!

N. And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him.

On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and enlisted him to carry his cross. When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink. When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothing by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him. Above his head was placed

the charge against him; it read: ‘This is Jesus, the King of the Jews’. At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said:

C. So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God’s son, come down from the cross!

N. The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way, saying:

C. He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He put his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, ‘I am the son of God’.

N. Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way.

From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice:

J. Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?

N. That is: ‘My God, my God, why have you deserted me?’ When some of those who stood there heard this, they said:

C. The man is calling on Elijah,

N. and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink. The rest of them said:

C. Wait! See if Elijah will come to save him.

N. But Jesus, again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

All kneel and pause a moment.

N. At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to a number of people.

Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said:

C. In truth this was a son of God.

Longer form, Mt 26:14–27:66

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES’ CREED

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

P. Pray, brethren . . .

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. Through the Passion of your Only Begotten Son, O Lord, may our reconciliation with you be near at hand, so that, though we do not merit it by our own deeds, yet by this sacrifice made once for all, we may feel already the effects of your mercy. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

PREFACE OF THE LORD’S PASSION

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God . . .

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Mt 26:42

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Nourished with these sacred gifts, we humbly beseech you, O Lord, that, just as through the death of your Son you have brought us to hope for what we believe, so by his Resurrection you may lead us to where you call. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.

R. Thanks be to God.

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OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

MATTHEW

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY / A

29 MARCH 2026

THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS. We see ourselves in the crowds who cried ‘Hosanna to the Son of David’ one day and ‘Crucify him’ just a few days later. Like Peter and the other disciples we can be fickle followers of Jesus. We should not, however, imitate Judas and despair at our infidelity. Rather, we should look to Jesus who allowed his blood to be poured out for many ‘for the forgiveness of sins’. Let us praise him with grateful hearts.

COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD’S ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM

THE PROCESSION

The faithful, carrying palm branches, assemble either in front of the church or inside the church.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Jn 12:1; Ps 23:9-10

Six days before the Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they carried palm branches and with a loud voice cried out:

Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy! O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! Who is this king of glory? He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

The Gloria is omitted.

COLLECT

P. Almighty ever-living God, who as an example of humility for the human race to follow caused our Saviour to take flesh and submit to the Cross, graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of patient suffering and so merit a share in his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isa 50:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.

The Lord has given me a disciple’s tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied, he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM Ps 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24. R. v. 2

R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

1. All who see me deride me. / They curl their lips, they toss their heads. / ‘He trusted in the Lord, let him save him: / let him release him if this is his friend.’ R.

2. Many dogs have surrounded me, / a band of the wicked beset me. / They tear holes in my hands and my feet, / I can count every one of my bones. R.

3. They divide my clothing among them. / They cast lots for my robe. / O Lord, do not leave me alone, / my strength, make haste to help me! R.

4. I will tell of your name to my brethren / and praise you where they are assembled. / ‘You who fear the Lord give him praise; / all sons of Jacob, give him glory. / Revere him, Israel’s sons.’ R.

GOSPEL Mt 27:11-54

N. The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

(N. Narrator J. Jesus O. Other single speaker C. Crowd, or more than one other speaker)

N. Jesus, then, was brought before the governor, and the governor put to him this question:

O. Are you the king of the Jews?

N. Jesus replied:

J. It is you who say it.

N. But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders he refused to answer at all. Pilate then said to him:

O. Do you not hear how many charges they have brought against you?

N. But to the governor’s complete amazement, he offered no reply to any of the charges.

At festival time it was the governor’s practice to release a prisoner for the people, anyone they chose. Now there was at that time a notorious prisoner whose name was Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate said to them,

O. Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas or Jesus who is called Christ?

