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St Paul's Mass Live Streaming: www.churchservices.tv/dover
<https://www.youtube.com/@stpaulsdoverstfinbarrsayle7499/streams>

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD **YEAR A – 29th MARCH 2026**



Missal P184 Order of the Mass P470
Second collection for Easter Flowers



GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY PLACES

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

For the past five weeks of Lent, we have been journeying with Jesus and reflecting on the immensity of the sacrifice that he made for us. Today we start taking part in the final part of his journey when he gloriously entered Jerusalem as a king. The first part of today's Gospel explains how Jesus went with his admirers into Jerusalem. It was such a joyful move with people adoring him with palms in their hand and singing. The second part which is the passion of Christ according to Matthew brings to light the roles that different people played leading to his death on the cross. Those characters have lessons for us such as the crowd who initially sang his praise but abandoned him when the going got tough, Judas betrayed him, Peter denied him, other apostles ran away, Herod ridiculed him, Pilate acted against his conscience and condemned him to death on the cross, soldiers bullied him, the leaders of the people preserve their position by getting rid of Jesus, some women followed him till death and Joseph of Arimathea buried him. As we reflect on all these characters, we ask God for the grace not to fall into any of the similar pattern but be helpful to other people in need.



PLEASE NOTE change of times of some Services for Holy Week. Check page 4 of the newsletter.

SECOND COLLECTION today for Easter Flowers. **Special Collection** on Good Friday for the Holy Places in Palestine. **Easter Sunday** is your personal offering to the clergy. Special Easter Envelopes will be available at the back of church.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION at St Finbarr's on 31st March. This will begin by 7pm. Fr Matthew Madewa has been invited to hear confessions.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED. Thomas Russell Bramwell from St. Finbarr's, husband of Vera and lifelong member of St Finbarr's parish. Russell's Funeral Service will be on **Thursday 9th April 11am** followed by burial at Aylesham Cemetery; **Cathy Huntley from St. Paul's**, mother of Clare and Joe. Cathy's Requiem Mass will be on **Tuesday 14th April at 11am** followed by cremation at Barham at 1pm. May They Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory. Amen.

CONGRATULATIONS to all those who were confirmed last October and received their certificates from Fr. Jamie last Sunday at the 11am Mass at St. Paul's; **Felicity, Kaylee, Lucas, Zoe, Amanda and Dera.**

AWARD OF FIRST CONFESSION CERTIFICATES. Children at both St Paul's and St Finbarr's who successfully made their first confession recently will be awarded their certificate at the **9am Mass at St Paul's and 11am Mass at St Finbarr's** today **Palm Sunday.**



SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE AT ST PAUL'S will resume on **Easter Sunday after the 9am Mass.** St Paul's 13th Dover Beavers, Cubs and Scout Group has kindly offered to run them on the first Sunday of the month. We are still looking for other groups to cover the other Sunday mornings in the month. Please let Fr. Gabriel or Anne Castle know if your group is willing to help. **There will be a meeting for interested groups or people after the 9am Mass today.**

INDUCTION OF FR. GABRIEL as the parish priest of the Good Shepherd parish by Bishop Paul Hendricks will be on **Thursday 16th April with Mass at 6pm**. We invite all of you for this memorable celebration. The Reception afterwards will take place at **St Richard's Catholic Primary School, Castle Avenue, Dover**. Because there will be limited capacity, and for Health & Safety reasons, we have to restrict the number of people who can attend the Reception. Therefore, if you wish to come to the Reception after the Mass you will need to apply for a free ticket. These can be obtained through the following website. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/reception-for-fr-gabriel-onoyima-cssp-tickets-1984365643056?aff=oddtcreator>. If you do not have access to the internet please give your name to Mary if you would like to attend. Tel 07936 573155. **The Induction Mass is open to All**. It is just the Reception afterwards that will be free ticketed. We will be arranging transport for those who wish to attend the Reception and are unable to walk up the hill to the School. Please contact Mary if you require transport.

NEW GIFT AID ENVELOPES 2026/27. Please pick up from the back of church.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS Good Friday 3rd April, St Paul's Church at 2.30pm and immediately prior to the Good Friday service at 3pm.

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN DOVER: HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2026

PALM SUNDAY: 4pm, Ecumenical Service of Planting of the Crosses, St Mary-The-Virgin, Biggin Street, Dover.

GOOD FRIDAY: Walk of Witness 3rd April. Ecumenical Walk of Witness, Commencing at 10am, Town Hall, Dover. Final destination St Mary-in-Castro Church, Dover Castle to plant crosses on the hill top overlooking Dover.

EASTER DAY: Ecumenical Sunrise Service Sunday 5th April commencing at 6.22am, St Mary-in-Castro Church, in Dover Castle.

FAITH AND LIFE SESSIONS FOR FAMILIA UNA YOUTH GROUP is taking a break for Easter. The next Familia Una Meeting will be on 12th April, which will be the start of a Youth Alpha course.

BIBLE STUDY AT ST PAUL'S. No bible study on Maundy Thursday. The next bible study will take place immediately after the 10am Mass on **Thursday 23rd April**.

ST FINBARR'S CORNER 1. Fides meetings will be taking a break for the month of April. We will reconvene on **Thursday, the 7th of May at our usual time of 6:40 for a 7pm start**. **2**. Our Good Friday service will start at **2:15pm with stations of the cross**. **3**. The Lenten food donations deadline has been extended to **Maundy Thursday, the 2nd of April**. Please take advantage of the opportunity to make your contributions to support our local food bank in Aylesham. God bless you.

CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO RUN A REPOSITORY AT ST. FINBARR'S. We would like to revive our repository at St Finbarr's where prayer books, sacramentals and holy objects will be sold. If you are interested in helping with this, please speak to Fr Gabriel, Carina or Esiri.

ST FINBARR'S: As we journey through Lent and embrace prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, let us show charity in action by supporting families and young people who are struggling. Please donate non-perishable food and essentials in the collection box at the back of St Finbarr's church until **2nd April**. All items and funds will go to support ****Bechange**** and their work in our local community. **Suggested items:** • Sugar • UHT milk • Coffee • Flour (plain & self-raising) • Long life juice or squash • Sweet biscuits & crackers • Crisps • Tinned meat • Salt, pepper & vinegar • Washing up liquid & other cleaning items • Spreads (peanut butter, jam, marmite) • Tomato & brown sauce • Mayonnaise & gravy Thank you for your generous support.

ST FINBARR'S CHILDREN'S LITURGY the **1st Sunday of the month only**, until we recruit some more volunteers.

THANK YOU. Paul would like to thank all those who came to Carol's funeral to celebrate her life. It was wonderful to see so many people in the church and the reception after, and to know how much loved she was. May she now Rest in Peace, Amen.

THANK YOU. Fr Jamie would like to thank all those who have donated to his book. A total of **£4082.92** has been raised so far for the World Youth Day 2027. There are only a few books left if anyone would like one.

MUSTARD SEEDS LENT CHARITY ST. PAUL'S. This Lent, the Mustard Seeds will be collecting donations for Baby Basics, Dover branch. Baby Basics provides support to new families who need a helping hand. Most needed items are: Scratch mits, nappy cream, nappy sacks, changing mats, Moses basket blankets (boy), comforters/teddies- nothing with hard eyes. If you are able to donate, there are boxes at the back of the church. The children are collecting up until Easter Sunday. Thank you for supporting the children in their almsgiving this Lent.

WEDDING OF ESTELLE ESCUBIO & QUINN SMITH. The Nuptial Mass will take place in St Paul's Church on **Monday 13th April at 2.30 pm**. All are welcome to attend the ceremony.

SPRING PILGRIMAGE TO CANTERBURY April 18th 10.30 A.M. from St Mary's Church, Chilham via St Mary's Church, Chartham to Canterbury and finishing with evensong in the Cathedral. Contact: Eddie Gilmore at gileag@gmail.com www.eddiegilmore.org

Parish of the Good Shepherd Dover and Aylesham 'Called to Bear Fruit': Parish Renewal, 2026		
Mustard Seed Children's Liturgy	First and Third Sunday 11am 5th and 19th April	St Paul's Upper Hall, Dover
St Finbarr's Children's Liturgy	First Sunday of the Month 11am	St Finbarr's, Aylesham
St Jude's Prayer Group	Third Monday 2pm – 3pm 20th April	St Paul's Hall, Dover
'Familia Una' Adult Youth Group	Sunday 6pm Restarts 12th April	St. Paul's Upper Hall, Dover
First Holy Communion Preparation	Saturday 9.30am Restarts 25th April	St Paul's Hall, Dover
First Holy Communion Preparation	Sunday 9.30am Restarts 26th April	St Finbarr's, Aylesham
Winter Soup Kitchen	Sunday 4pm – 6pm Finishes 29th March	St Paul's Hall, Dover
Fides Prayer Group St Paul's	Wednesday 6:40pm for 7pm Restarts 22nd April	St Paul's Hall, Dover
Fides Prayer Group St Finbarr's	Alternate Thursdays 6:40pm for 7pm Restarts 7th May	St Finbarr's, Aylesham
Junior Youth Group	Saturday 28th March 1pm – 4pm 'The Story of Jesus'	St Paul's Hall, Dover
Stations of the Cross	Sunday 10.15am	St Finbarr's, Aylesham
Sacrament of Reconciliation	31st March - 7pm	St Finbarr's, Aylesham
Stations of the Cross	Good Friday 2:30pm 2.15pm	St. Paul's, Dover St Finbarr's, Aylesham

CATECHISM

Christ went down into the depths of death so that "the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. "Jesus, "the Author of life", by dying destroyed "him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and [delivered] all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage. "Henceforth the risen Christ holds "the keys of Death and Hades", so that "at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth."

Today a great silence reigns on earth, a great silence and a great stillness. A great silence because the King is asleep. the earth trembled and is still because God has fallen asleep in the flesh and he has raised up all who have slept ever since the world began. . . He has gone to search for Adam, our first father, as for a lost sheep. Greatly desiring to visit those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death, he has gone to free from sorrow Adam in his bonds and Eve, captive with him - He who is both their God and the son of Eve. . . "I am your God, who for your sake have become your son. . . I order you, O sleeper, to awake. I did not create you to be a prisoner in hell. Rise from the dead, for I am the life of the dead." (Catechism of the Catholic Church)

Please Pray for those who are unwell:

St Finbarr's: Audrey Stitt, Elisabet Sulianti, Gabriela le Bohec, Charlie Golden, Tina Isaacs, Ray Deverson, Lucy Purbrick, Amanda Dennis, Jadon Michael Kalp, Denise Mastro, Tara Conklin, Jamie Chitwood.

St Paul's: Keely Cookson, David Underdown, Sr. Jennifer Sanders, Mary Mee, Carol Manton, Oliver O'Connor, Helen Scopes, John Doyle, Maria Frost, Roz & Rob Pain, Rosa Mazzitelli, Roselene Hindle, Sr Rani Xavier, Thanima Jayan, Janice & Livra Fernandes, Catriona Stark, Mary Pressnell, Gaby Anaya Amor, Pat Evans, Shirley Lazarus, Shirley Jefford, Gail White, John & Joyce Nix, Bailey Turner, Peggy Merrell, Ryan Whittall, Jean Ann Dowle, Norman Woolhouse, Ted Peel, Christopher Browne, Angela, Alice Wilson, Angela Henbrey, Madison Woodall, Elisa Gomez Melero, Ann Tomalak, Emin Jain, Pat & Patricia Sherratt, Chris Roy.

Please Pray for those whose death anniversaries occur this week:

St Finbarr's: Edward Golden, Gloria Rockenbauer, Owen McCallum, Carl Bramwell, Michael McCallum, Emma Snodgrass, Carrick Armstrong, Betty Yore.

St Paul's: Arthur McMillan, Arthur Freed, Canon Grady, Elizabeth Spray, Caroline Van Oss, Clara Borrello, Siobhan Barringer, Norman Revell, John Squirrel, Canon William O'Riordan, Rose Campbell, Sylvia Winifred Sandford, Marie-Louise Jones, Ken Atmore, Charles Heyes, Winifred Roy, Albert John Newhan, Sidney Stephen Cole, Annie Josephine Milner, Pauline Coulter, Maureen Collins, Dorothy McMillan, Elizabeth Mary Evans, Arthur Cloke.

EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. FINBARR'S			
PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD	Sunday 29 th March	9.30am 10.15am 11am	First Holy Communion Preparation in Church Stations of the Cross Mass for Liz & Fran RIP (Bet) Presentation of First Confession Certificates
	Wednesday 1 st April	10am	EUCCHARISTIC SERVICE
MAUNDY THURSDAY	Thursday 2 nd April	6pm 7pm	Confessions Mass for The Children of St. Finbarr's
FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (GOOD FRIDAY)	Friday 3 rd April	2.15pm 2.15pm 3pm	Confessions Stations of the Cross The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ
HOLY SATURDAY	Saturday 4 th April	7pm	Easter Vigil Mass for Families of the Parish
EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD	Sunday 5 th April	11am	Mass for Carl Bramwell RIP (Bet)

EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S			
	Saturday 28 th March	9.30am 10am 1pm 5pm 6pm	First Holy Communion Preparation in the Hall Mass in St. Edmund's Chapel for G/E Angela, Patrick & Family (Sheila) Youth Mustard Seeds 'The Story of Jesus' Confessions in the church (until 5.45pm) Mass for Carol Smye-Rumsby RIP (Anne & Peter)
PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD	Sunday 29 th March	9am 11am 3pm 4pm	Mass for G/E Monica (Sheila) Presentation of First Confession Certificates Mass for Cathy Huntley RIP (Margaret & Jan) Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet until 3.45pm Winter Soup Kitchen in the Hall until 6pm LAST SESSION
	Monday 30 th March	10am	Mass for G/E Arife, Sven and New Baby (Sheila) Confessions after Mass until 11:00am
	Tuesday 31 st March	10am	Mass for Cathy Huntley RIP (Lizzie) Confessions after Mass until 11:00am
	Wednesday 1 st April	10am 5.30pm	Mass for Cathy & John Huntley RIP (Colin) Confessions after Mass until 11:00am Exposition and Holy Rosary until 6.30pm
MAUNDY THURSDAY	Thursday 2 nd April	10am 7pm	NO MASS Confessions until 11:00am Mass for Cathy Huntley RIP (Anne & Peter) Followed by Watching at the Altar of Repose
FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (GOOD FRIDAY)	Friday 3 rd April	10am 3pm	NO MASS Confessions until 11:00am The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ
HOLY SATURDAY	Saturday 4 th April	7pm	NO MASS in St. Edmund's Chapel Easter Virgil Mass for World Peace
EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD	Sunday 5 th April	9am 11am	Mass for Families of the Parish Coffee in the hall after Mass with the Beavers Group Mass for People of Parish

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES CONTACT EMAIL

Stephen Carton for St Finbarr's ayleshamsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

Keith Wells for St Paul's doversg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

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For a newsletter emailed weekly, or to suggest articles/additions, contact the Editor: dovertnewsletter@rcaos.org.uk

Newsletter items received after 6pm Thursday may not be included that week. The Editor reserves the right to edit articles.

A Parish of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark CIO Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050

Readings for Sunday

29th March 2026

This gospel is read at the procession with palms before Mass.

Gospel **Matthew 21:1-11**

'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'

When Jesus and his disciples drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, "The Lord needs them", and he will send them at once.' This took place to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet, saying, 'Say to the daughter of Sion, "Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden."' The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!' And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, 'Who is this?' And the crowds said, 'This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.'

First Reading **Isaiah 50:4-7**

'I hid not my face from disgrace, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.'

The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of those who are taught,
that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary.
Morning by morning he awakens;
he awakens my ear
to hear as those who are taught.
The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I turned not backwards.
I gave my back to those who strike,
and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard;
I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting.
But the Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like a flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 22(21):8-9. 17-18a. 19-20. 23-24. R2a

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
or: Alleluia.

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, for in him he delights.'
My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
or: Alleluia.

For dogs have surrounded me;
a band of the wicked besets me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet;
I can count every one of my bones.
My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
or: Alleluia.

They divide my clothing among them,
they cast lots for my robe.
But you, O LORD, do not stay afar off;
my strength, make haste to help me!
My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
or: Alleluia.

I will tell of your name to my kin,
and praise you in the midst of the assembly;
'You who fear the LORD, give him praise;
all descendants of Jacob, give him glory;
revere him, all you descendants of Israel.'
My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
or: Alleluia.

Second Reading **Philippians 2:6-11**

'He humbled himself, therefore God has highly exalted him.'

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Acclamation before the Gospel

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.
Christ became for us obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.
Therefore God has highly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name that is above every name.
Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Philippians 2:8-9

'The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ'

Key: N. Narrator. ✕ Christ. S. Speaker or speakers other than Christ.

N. At that time: One of the Twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,

S. What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?

N. And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.

Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying,

S. Where would you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?

N. He said,

✕ Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'

N. And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

When it was evening, he reclined at table with the Twelve. And as they were eating, he said,

✕ Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.

N. And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another,

S. Is it I, Lord?

N. He answered,

✕ He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.

N. Judas, who would betray him, answered,

S. Is it I, Rabbi?

N. He said to him,

✕ You have said so.

N. Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said,

✕ Take, eat; this is my body.

N. And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying,

✕ Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

N. And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,

✕ You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.

N. Peter answered him,

S. Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.

N. Jesus said to him,

✕ Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.

N. Peter said to him,

S. Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!

N. And all the disciples said the same.

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples,

✕ Sit here, while I go over there and pray.

N. And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them,

✕ My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.

N. And going a little further he fell on his face and prayed, saying,

✕ My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.

N. And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter,

✕ So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

N. Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed,

✕ My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.

N. And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. Then he came to the disciples and said to them,

✕ Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.

N. While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the Twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'The one I will kiss is the man; seize him.' And he came up to Jesus at once and said,

S. Greetings, Rabbi!

N. And he kissed him. Jesus said to him,

✕ Friend, do what you came to do.

N. Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him. And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. Then Jesus said to him,

✕ Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?

N. At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

✕ Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.

N. Then all the disciples left him and fled.

Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. And Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said,

S. This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'

N. And the high priest stood up and said,

S. Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?

N. But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him,

S. I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.

N. Jesus said to him,

✠ You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.

N. Then the high priest tore his robes and said,

S. He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your judgement?

N. They answered,

S. He deserves death.

N. Then they spat in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, saying,

S. Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?

N. Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said,

S. You also were with Jesus the Galilean.

N. But he denied it before them all, saying,

S. I do not know what you mean.

N. And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders,

S. This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.

N. And again he denied it with an oath:

S. I do not know the man.

N. After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,

S. Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you.

N. Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear,

S. I do not know the man.

N. And immediately the cock crowed. And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, 'Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.' And he went out and wept bitterly.

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. And they bound him and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate the governor.

Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, saying,

S. I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.

N. They said,

S. What is that to us? See to it yourself.

N. And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said,

S. It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since it is blood money.

N. So they took counsel and bought with them the potter's field as a burial place for strangers. Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken by the prophet Jeremiah, saying, 'And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him on whom a price had been set by some of the sons of Israel, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me.'

Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him,

S. Are you the King of the Jews?

N. Jesus said,

✠ You have said so.

N. But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate said to him,

S. Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?

N. But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

S. Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?

N. For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. Besides, while he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him,

S. Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream.

N. Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor again said to them,

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

N. And they said,

S. Barabbas.

N. Pilate said to them,

S. Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?

N. They all said,

S. Let him be crucified!

N. And he said,

S. Why? What evil has he done?

N. But they shouted all the more,

S. Let him be crucified!

N. So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,

S. I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.

N. And all the people answered,

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

N. Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying,

S. Hail, King of the Jews!

N. And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying,

S. You who would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.

N. So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying,

S. He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'

N. And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying,

✠ Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?

N. that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said,

S. This man is calling Elijah.

N. And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. But the others said,

S. Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.

N. And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

All kneel for a period of silence.

N. And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said,

S. Truly this was the Son of God!

N. There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,

S. Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.' Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead', and the last fraud will be worse than the first.

N. Pilate said to them,

S. You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.

N. So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.