

Parish of Malin (Clonca) Sunday 5th April 2020
Palm Sunday of The Lord's Passion (Year A Week 2)

9th April: **Holy Thursday** 10th April: **Good Friday** 11th April: **Holy Saturday**

Malin Parish: Resources, news and prayers. Facebook malin parish website www.malinparish.ie
Details on the times of online Masses and Prayers for the Covid 19 Crisis : <https://www.catholicbishops.ie>
Mass Leaflets for each Sunday are available in the churches and parish shops along with weekly Bulletins.

RTÉ schedule of services during Holy Week

Palm Sunday 5 April 1100am-1150am Mass on Palm Sunday.
Holy Thursday 9 April 4.40pm-5.35pm Mass of the Lord's Supper.
Good Friday 10 April 3pm-4pm Solemn Liturgy for Good Friday.
Holy Saturday 11 April 10p -11pm Easter Vigil Mas in the Cathedral of Christ the King. Beginning with the lighting of the Paschal candle, the liturgy, which signifies the triumph of light over darkness and of life over death
Easter Sunday 12th April 1000am -1100am Easter Sunday Mass. .
1100am-1120 am Urbi et Orbi: Pope Francis' Easter Message. Pope Francis will deliver his Easter blessing To the city and the world with prayer and encouragement.

Today is known as the Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday.

What if we renamed today "Turmoil Sunday? Or Chaos Sunday?" Does that sound like the gospel accounts of Jesus entering Jerusalem in glory , and then His Passion and death to you?

Most of us today probably pray for and hope Jesus will bring just the opposite: some peace and calm, answers to our questions, and solutions to our problems. We didn't come looking for turmoil. We came to hear the story of Jesus riding a donkey, to sing our hosannas, and to get our souvenir palm.

I suspect the crowds that followed Jesus weren't so different from us. A ride on a borrowed donkey, songs of celebration and praise, garments and branches that fall before Jesus like the confetti of a ticker tape parade; now that's a triumphal entry. It was for them and it is for us. Most of us are probably pretty happy to leave it at that.

So why would we rename this day "Turmoil Sunday?" Despite what we see, our expectations and hopes for the day, and even what we want to believe, the city itself, Jerusalem, has a very different experience of and response to Jesus' triumphal entry. "When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?'" Jesus and turmoil seem to go together.

I wonder if Jerusalem sees and understands something we don't. I wonder if we are too easily distracted by the donkey, hosannas, and palms so that we miss what is really happening. I wonder if the city's response just might be the most faithful and appropriate response. Maybe we should all be in turmoil this day. Maybe turmoil is today's good news. Maybe the turmoil Jesus brings is exactly what we need.

St. Matthew makes it very clear that turmoil sets the tone not just for today but throughout this entire week and even into Easter. It is not, however, our usual understanding of the word turmoil. It is more than just chaos, confusion, and uncertainty.

The Greek word that has been translated as turmoil really means to shake or quake and is descriptive of what happens in an earthquake. St. Matthew uses this same Greek word to describe Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, the shaking of the earth and the splitting of the rocks at Jesus' crucifixion, the earthquake that accompanies the angel coming and rolling the stone away from Jesus' tomb, and the shaking of the guard who stood at the tomb.

In all these St. Matthew is describing seismic events in which our lives and our world are shaken to the core and something is destroyed. That's what earthquakes do. The destruction wrought by Holy Week,

however, is not the end but a new beginning. The tremblers of this week will forever change who we are and the life we live.

Holy Week will be one earthquake after another. Denial, betrayal, suffering, cruelty, death and grief. You know what happens in an earthquake. Earthquakes are destructive. The foundations on which we stand are shaken. Old things crumble and fall. The structures around which we've built our lives are left in ruin and rubble. That's how Jerusalem experiences Jesus' entry and that's why this day should be called "Turmoil Sunday."

So let me ask you this. What parts of your life and world need some Jesus kind of turmoil? What in you needs to be shaken awake and back to life? What has become foundational for your life but no longer supports your life? What are the old ways of thinking, seeing, and acting that just need to crumble and fall? In what ways have you become a prisoner of the very structures upon which you built your life? Somewhere in each of our lives we need the triumphant turmoil of Christ. It is the devastation of everything in us that keeps us from being fully alive, fully ourselves, and fully God's. It's the devastation that creates space and place for a new foundation, a new structure, and a new life.

The turmoil of this day is also the triumph of this day. The triumph of Palm Sunday is not in the donkey, the hosannas, or the palms. It is Christ's earth shaking entry into our world and our lives. It is a triumph that will continue to be revealed throughout this week. It is a triumph that happens whenever and wherever Jesus is present. (Edited from "Interrupting the Silence," M K Marsh)

A Prayer Concerning COVID-19

God our Father, Creator of the world, almighty and merciful, out of love for us
You sent your Son into the world as the doctor of our souls and our bodies,
look upon your children who, in this difficult time of confusion and dismay in
many regions of Europe and the world, turn to you seeking strength, salvation
and relief, deliver us from illness and fear, heal our sick, comfort their families, give wisdom
to our rulers, energy and reward to our doctors, nurses and volunteers, eternal
life to the dead. Do not abandon us in the moment of trial but deliver us from all
evil. We ask this of Thee, who with the Son and the Holy Spirit, live and reign for
ever and ever. Amen.

A Prayer in this time of challenge

God of Love, we turn to you with prayerful hearts and with confidence in your loving presence among us
now and in every moment of our lives. We stand before you as a people of hope, trusting in your care and
protection. May we be comforted by your love in these anxious times.

Generous and Merciful God, fill us with compassion and concern for others, young and old; that we may
look after each other in these challenging times, especially those among us who are vulnerable. May your
example give us the courage we need to go to the margins, wherever they may be. Heal us of our fear.

Healing God, bring healing to those who are sick with the Coronavirus and be with their families and
neighbours. We pray especially who those who are isolated, that they may know your love. Stay by our
side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

God of Strength, accompany all those who serve us with such love and generosity in the medical
profession and in all our healthcare facilities. We give thanks for their continued work in the service of
people. We ask you to bless them, strengthen them and guide them with your abundant goodness.

God of Wisdom, we ask you to guide the leaders in healthcare and governance; that they may make the
right decisions for the wellbeing of people.

O God of creation and God of life, we, your people, place ourselves and our world in your protection and
love. May your peace be with us and enfold us today, tomorrow and during the time ahead.

We make our prayer through the intercession of Mary our Mother, and all the saints.