

Pastoral Reflection
Palm Sunday
April 10, 2022

In Luke's gospel, we have come to present what happens on Palm Sunday as Jesus's high profile entry into Jerusalem beginning a day of action, initiating a well-orchestrated, strategic, non-violent campaign . . . or is it? And how then does this day come to conclusion with Jesus's arrest and conviction, held prisoner by voice vote in place of a violent criminal?

Consider that the ancient world, like ours, loved a parade, and the Roman leadership's shows of military power certainly met their expectations. Prancing horses, military hardware, rich booty from exotic lands, all designed to impress spectators and flatter the powerful. And then here comes Jesus, seated on a beast of burden, a donkey, no less, hardly acclaimed by the "A-List" and the power-elite for transport. He is accompanied not by smartly uniformed soldiers marching in impressive unison but a strangely assorted crowd of rather ragtag and rowdy hangers-on. He pauses before entering the city, literally to weep over it, overcome with grief for its coming destruction because of the blindness of its people to the ways of peace. It could have been so otherwise! Jesus's entry into Jerusalem looks more like parody than power. It reminds us of Paul's comment that God chose what is foolish in this world to shame the wise and what is weak to confound the strong. (1 Corinthians 1-27) For people who expected Jesus to appear in a royal blaze of glory -- escorted by crack military units -- palm branches, donkeys and open tears of grief must have been a bitter disappointment.

Perhaps nobody saw the contrast but God and that unsightly mob of misfits and oddballs that Jesus loved and had healed: the trembling crone who dared touch the hem of his garment; the "woman with a past" who anointed his feet with tears and perfume; the centurion (a Roman, for heaven's sake!) and his servant; Lazarus, covered in sores and licked by dogs, who had been seen begging at the gate; someone who had been known as a paralytic who was lowered through a roof on a palanquin; a woman with five husbands he had met beside a well; known lepers. Through the compassion of the man riding on the donkey, all of these followers embody power in powerlessness, wealth in poverty, strength in weakness, honor in shame.

Today we would probably find Jesus pausing in the suburbs of Kiev, as he returns there with the people of Ukraine -- stepping over bodies handcuffed and shot point blank by their Russian neighbors lying in streets where buildings have been shelled beyond recognition by parades of Russian tanks. And today, too, he would weep for blindness to the ways of peace.

Are we any more ready now for the teaching and example of this man of compassion and peace than the world was in his own time? Could THIS be his time, or would he still be arrested, convicted, and sent to his death among us?

Sister Chabanel Mathison, O.S.U.



St. Cronan Catholic Church
Palm Sunday
April 9-10, 2022

Mass Information

SUNDAY – 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.
SATURDAY VIGIL – 5:00 p.m.
Wednesdays – 8:00 a.m.
Masks are required for all Masses

Holy Triduum Service times: Holy Thursday and Good Friday: 7:00 p.m.
Easter Vigil: 8:00 p.m., Easter Sunday: 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

The Mass for Sunday, April 3 can be found on our website: <https://www.stcronan.org/>

Live-streaming continues at the 10:00 am Mass. PLEASE BE ON TIME! Live-streamed masses are available on our Facebook page any time after the 10:00 Mass, <https://www.facebook.com/StCronan>



ALL THINGS NEW

Archdiocesan Education Survey: As part of the All Things New strategic pastoral planning initiative, you are encouraged to share your input about Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. The survey is open to all current/former/prospective parents, alumni, faculty, staff, administrators, donors, volunteers, and community members of both Catholic Schools and Parish-based Religious Education programs. The survey is available to be completed from April 5 through May 2 and can be accessed here: www.surveymonkey.com/r/EDUCATIONSURVEY2022. For any questions, email allthingsnew@archstl.org or please call the office: (314) 289-9384. We need as many participants as possible. THANKS! If you would like further information, you can visit the Archdiocese's website <https://allthingsnew.archstl.org/> or call our office at 314-289-9384. You can also leave comments about the process at this website.



Collection for Priest's Retirement: This second collection will take place on Easter Sunday and benefits our own Fr. Gerry. (And Fr. Jack if we ever let him retire). Please be generous.

Decorate for Holy Week: We will decorate for Easter at 10:00 a.m. on Holy Saturday, April 16. Please join us if you can.

Rice Bowls: Please return your rice bowls for Catholic Relief Services to one of the Triduum services, or on Easter Sunday. Thank you for your generosity.

Holy Week: Several readers are needed for the Triduum. Many people have offered. I'm attaching the sign up sheet so you know who is needed. Please email me, Diane, at diane@stcronan.org to volunteer, or sign up on the Google Doc at this link: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/17acxXpMaUqSFbOy4IVRyqjwK0YU6kSK7/edit?usp=sharing&oid=103057187619177728911&rtpof=true&sd=true> or sign up in Church.

Coffee and Donuts is back! Please join us in the Hospitality Room in the Parish Center after the 10:00 Mass

Help Me With Vital Statistics We are updating our data bases in the Parish Office and we need your help. We have noticed that many parishioners do not have a "joined date" entered in their profiles. If you remember the date you joined St. Cronan as an active parishioner, please shoot Mary a short email mary@stcronan.org or give her a call 314-289-9384. Even if it's just the year. That way we can update our data base. We don't know if we will need this important info for "All Things New" or not, but certainly, these vital statistics are needed for other purposes. Thank you for your assistance.

Hidden Mercy: A Discussion and Book Signing with Michael O'Loughlin, St. Francis Xavier College Church, April 21, 7:00 p.m. Michael will speak about the way the Catholic Church compassionately ministered to the LGBTQ Community most impacted by the AIDS epidemic. For more information, please see the flyer in the Chapel.

Metropolitan Congregations United has invited congregations to participate in Earth Day by representing St. Cronan at their booth, and several additional places to be involved this Spring. Please see the flyer in the Chapel for information to volunteer.

Retrouvaille-St. Louis weekend, August 19 – 21, 2022 - Healing Your Marriage--Retrouvaille (French for "Rediscovery") is a 3-phase program designed to give you the tools to restore your marriage and rebuild a loving relationship. For more information or to register, call **314.453.0110** or visit website: www.HelpOurMarriage.org Fully Confidential and affordable. Space is limited with Covid-19 precautions. Register early. Questions: Tom & Kerry Marsh 314.753.2022

The Gardening Committee, who take care of the Church grounds, are in need of pots for thinning plants. You can leave them on the side of the rectory.

Stations of the Cross in Atonement for Abuse and for the Healing of All were offered online on Friday April 8 at 3:00 p.m. They are available on our Website.

Live Meetings: We are opening up for live meetings. If your committee or organization would like to meet live in the Coffee and Donut room or conference room at the Parish Center, please contact Mary, mary@stcronan.org to schedule your date and time.

Donations for Ukraine: If you would like to help, please give to the Ukrainian Children's Aid and Relief Effort, Inc. or UCARE, Inc., which is a charity serving the needy and orphaned children of Ukraine. If anyone wants to financially help the Ukrainian situation, please consider this charity. The website is www.ucareinc.org. Bob Hoffman has worked with this group for years..

Compassionate St. Louis: St. Cronan has become a member of this movement to help make our city a more compassionate place. You will be seeing their logo on our bulletins and signs. For further information, please visit their website: <https://www.compassionate-stl.org/about-us>

Day-Long Women's Retreat: Mark your Calendars! Women's Day Long Retreat planned for Saturday, June 25, 2022. Tentative time from 8:30am to 4:30pm. In person and outdoors. Centrally located near Hampton and Hwy 44. Theme and details to follow. Donna Moromarco, Kim Madden, and Mary Middendorf are in the planning stages. Express your interest in attending by emailing mary.middendorf@gmail.com as soon as possible. Space is limited.

Catholic Racial Justice Collaborative: Be the change you wish to see. As Catholics, it is our spiritual duty to combat the sin of personal and institutional racism. Could you use additional resources to understand and identify what it means to be anti-racist in your life? Follow the @Catholic Racial Justice Collaborative on Facebook at Catholic Racial Justice Collaborative or visit our website at www.catholicracialjusticestl.org.

Prayers Please: Laurel Hayes; Laurel Hayes' parents, Jerry and Nancy; Rose; Robert Nathe's Mother, Eileen; Colleen Wallace's godson, Lachlan; Michelle Frank; Jennifer Lyle and Krista Rakers; Jessica; Nick Ambrose; Al Sprehe; Phil Milner; Leslie Conway; Mike's grandson, Jack; Jim Gorman; Andrew Viraugh's father,; Sharon Orlet's sister, Betty; Nancy Buck's daughter, Jeanne; Kathy Bayless; Tom Kuciejczyk-Kernan's brother, Steve; Barry Buchek's wife, Mary; Trish Curtis' mother and brother; Gavin Barrett-Hayes; Barb Sopp's cousin, Patty Struckhoff; Marie and Roland Martir's granddaughter, Maggie; David Gaillardetz' father, Richard; Fr. Gerry's classmate, Fr. Pat O'Laughlin; Nick and Shirley Ambrose's daughter, Brigid Costello.