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**St Francis of Assisi, Parkview**

**Diocese of Johannesburg**

**Anglican Church of Southern Africa**

**5 April 2020**

**PALM SUNDAY: THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION**

Eternal Father,

your Son our saviour Jesus Christ fulfilled your will

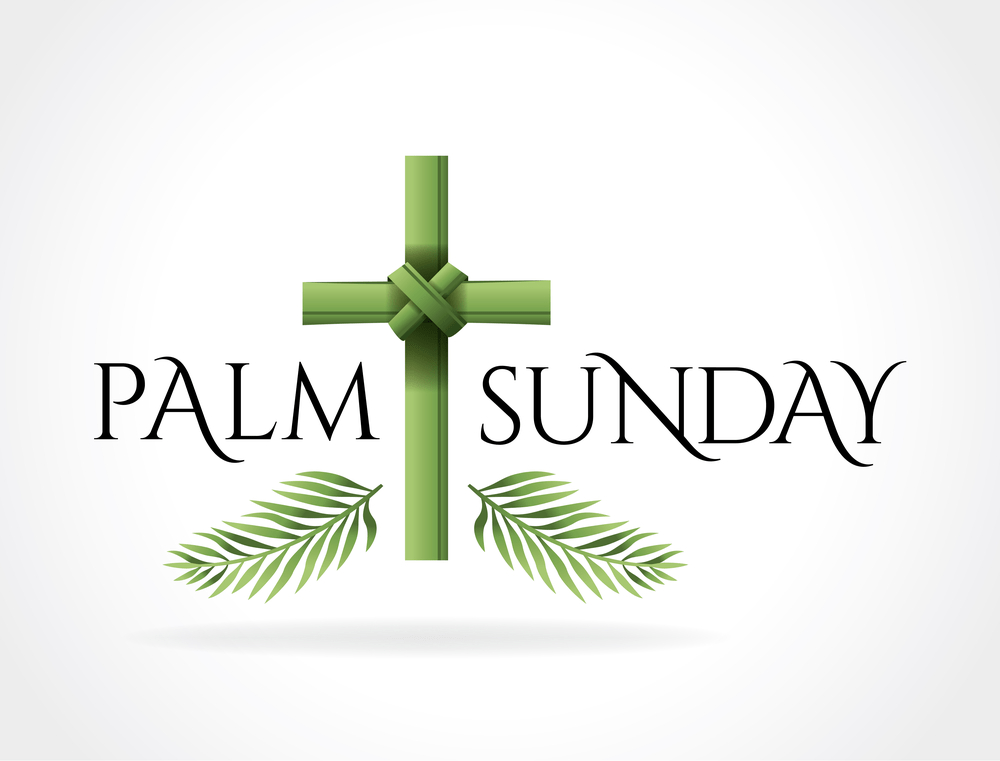
by taking our nature and giving his life for us:

help us to follow the examples of his humility

by walking in the way of the cross;

through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen



**Welcome to**

**Church Unusual – Live from St Francis**

**Physical Distancing, Social Solidarity and Spiritual Reality**

Each of us should live as if we are positive to protect those around us.

**“In everything do to others as you would have them do to you”.**

Matthew 7:12

My dear Franciscans

**While we may be in lockdown St Francis has not closed down**!!!

At St Francis we are bonded together in many ways, chiefly through the reality that we are God’s family, and neither God nor family close down. Not ever! The church is alive and well even under the tight lockdown of the next while. I think it would be prudent to anticipate that the lockdown may be extended well beyond this initial period.

What does the lockdown mean to physical church?

1. **The Church building will be closed.**
2. **The physical Office will be closed but the Office staff will work from home**.
3. **The Clergy will be available on their telephones**.
4. **Pastoral care, a listening ear and someone to pray with**

In this time of confusion, of isolation, and of stress we want to assure you that we are available for a friendly conversation if you feel alone, prayer if you would like to pray with someone and pastoral counselling if you are in need. Please know that you are welcome to call any of the people on the list below for whatever you might need.

Diana Lawrenson: 072 258 5537 Sue Jordaan: 082 416 7199

Cynthia Botha: 083 425 4833 Fabian Oliver:  079 760 8443

Val Archer: 083 7019443 Patience Dlamini: 082 558 8547

Bart Cox: 083 755 1656 Cally Tuckey: 082 901 5857

Paul Germond: 072 397 2284

1. **Hospital visiting** can only take place in exceptional circumstances, if at all.
2. **Funerals**, if necessary, will be held while strictly observing any regulations set by authorities. The funerary processes dealing with the deceased body will be under strict control, especially the bodies of people who have died from COVID-19.
3. **Staff, Council and Executive meetings** will take place via Zoom.

**What about Church Unusual**?

1. **Join us at 8:30 am every Sunday for “Church Unusual – Live from St Francis”**

**Palm Sunday** Sunday April 5, 8:30 am

Click on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCt35PbtR_ZhmeLxXjQ3EIBg/>

Try and make your palm crosses which I will bless. Diana has distributed a wonderful suggestion which we attach.

**Services for Holy Week** **2020**

**Maundy Thursday** Thursday April 9, 6:30 pm

**Good Friday** Friday April 10, 12:00 noon

**Easter Day** Sunday April 12, 8:30 am

1. **Friday Youth meet at 6:00 pm for a Zoom Encounter**

Be sure to contact Fabian on: 079 760 8443

1. **Church @ Home**

As we enter Holy Week, you may like to make ready your sacred space with a candle, image, cross and your Bible. You might even like to a include the globe or picture of the world in your scheme. Even loved ones can be there who are not with you in person. Spend time there each day in a rhythm this week: morning and evening.

We will send a reflection each morning and a mediation and activity on the stations of the cross to guide you and your families.  If God is calling you to just focus on the scriptures of the week, do, they are included below for you.  Just **BE** too: in silence and hope. Listen. God is always in the hush.

1. **Spiritual Communion**

Please remember the Anglican tradition has a wonderful practice that can be used by those who are unable to physically receive bread and wine; it is called **Spiritual Communion.** The Prayer Book (p 519) says that we can "be certain that Christ comes to us in this way as surely as he does in the Sacrament". We will use this each Sunday morning.

1. **Communication Unusual**

Please note that we are relying on electronic communications: our email list, my WhatsApp Parish Group, our Webpage, Facebook and YouTube Channel. If you are not receiving WhatsApp messages from me and you would like to please WhatsApp me on 072 397 2284 with your name and I will add you to the list.

1. **Offerings Unusual and a Parish Solidarity Fund** 
   1. Many of us will be facing a very precarious financial situation over the next months. And the church will be taking a knock financially as well as we do not receive Sunday collection. If you would like to continue making your Sunday collection, please make a EFT to:

Bank: Standard Bank Account name: Parkview St Francis

Branch: 000205 Account number: 000496502

* 1. **Easter Offering: Parish Solidarity Fund**

Normally the Easter Offering goes to the Rector’s Discretionary Fund. The Parish at its Council meeting on Tuesday decided that we should start a **Parish Solidarity Fund** on Easter Day. Some members of our family are going to lose jobs, watch livelihoods disappear before their eyes, and face severe financial situations. Others of us are abundantly resourced and will emerge from this crisis financially intact. As we set up a Parish Solidarity Fund to help meet the needs of members of our family who are in need we are asking for generosity by those who are able to give. In a true Franciscan spirit, let us live more simply so that others may simply live.

**Sunday 5 April -- Palm Sunday**

**Readings for Today:**

**Commemoration of Lord’s Entry into Jerusalem and the Blessing of Crosses**

[Matthew 21:1-11](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearA_RCL/HolyWk/APalmSun_RCL.html#gsp1) [Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearA_RCL/HolyWk/APalmSun_RCL.html#ps1)

**The Liturgy of the Word**

[Isaiah 50:4-9a](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearA_RCL/HolyWk/APalmSun_RCL.html#ot2) [Psalm 31:9-16](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearA_RCL/HolyWk/APalmSun_RCL.html#ps2) [Philippians 2:5-11](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearA_RCL/HolyWk/APalmSun_RCL.html#nt2) [Matthew 26:14- 27:66](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearA_RCL/HolyWk/APalmSun_RCL.html#gsp2)

**The Prayers of the Church**

**Prayers for the Church**

Pray for the Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean **The Most Revd James Richard Wong Yin Song** - Archbishop, Province of Indian Ocean & Bishop of the Seychelles

We pray for **Steve our Bishop** and our Diocese, for **Thabo our Metropolitan** and the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, and for **Justin of Canterbury** and the Anglican Communion. We pray for all Christians across the world as we share in each other’s sufferings and share in a common trust in God.

**A Prayer for Connection in a time of Physical Separation**

O God, in this time of physical separation may we be united in our desire to care for each other and our world.  Strengthen our communication in unexpected ways, keep us listening in deep and meaningful ways, keep us patient in practical and resourceful ways and soften our hearts to help those who need us.

**A Prayer for the World**

This Palm Sunday, may we be especially aware of the joy of recognizing you that happens all over the world in homes as beacons of Light. Inspire, strengthen and keep us hoping, trusting and being willing to rest in the joy of your truth as well as the depth of your sustenance in suffering. Draw us all close to you this week as we live apart and yet in the whirl of the world in Crucifixion and Resurrection.  Be in the deepest sorrow, the best hope and the global certainty that we are all in this together. O God, anchor us all in your wisdom. Amen

**Prayers for Parishioners:**

**Birthdays: Monday 6:** Motshegwa Mgeyane **Wednesday 7:** Sara Nieuwoudt **Friday 10:** Dylan Mackay; Lincoln Pearson; Grant Cawthorn; **Saturday 11:** Tshwarelo Setshedi

**Wedding Anniversaries: Monday 6:** Paul and Ceri Yammin **Wednesday 8:** Janet and Andrew Holloway; Robyn and Jonathan Whittaker

**Families to be prayed for this week**: Sarah, Sean, Caitlyn and Meghan EVANS; Xolisa and Monwabisi FANDESO; Cameron FERMIN, Simon, Rachel, Jayne and James FIFIELD

**Prayers for** **those in need of prayer****:** Susan Alexander;Michael Cruz; Stephen Botha Jentina Frahm-Arp; Marilyn Gianadda; Lesley Henderson; June Impey; Maria Longley and family; the Mgeyane family; Hilary Mudau; Thabani Mudau; the Nelson Family; Wendy Price; Regine Ndlibu; Gerald Strever; Francis Wilson and for **those who have long-term needs:** Pat Cawthorn; Maria Frahm-Arp; Geraldine Matlhare; Elzett Mufamadi; Thandazo Ndlovu; Dudley Spratt

We pray especially for **Doris Vermooten** who was admitted to hospital last Sunday night after suffering a severe stroke. Pray too for Michael, Mymie, Charl and the whole family in these difficult times.

**Years Mind:** Richard Rodolo; Henry Hope

**Eucharist Readings for Holy Week**

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|  | OT | NT | Gospel |
| Mon Apr 6 | Isaiah 42:1-9 | Hebrews 9:11-15 | John 12:1-11 |
| Tues Apr 7 | Isaiah 49:1-7 | 1 Cor 1:18-33 | John 12:20-36 |
| Wed Apr 8 | Isaiah 50:4-9 | Hebrews 12:1-3 | John 13:21-32 |
| Thur Apr 9 | Exodus 12:1-4,11-14 | 1 Cor 11:23-26 | John 13:1-17,31-35 |
| Fri Apr 10 | Isaiah 52:13-53:12 | Hebrews 10:16-25 | John 18:1-19:42 |
| Sat Apr 11\* | Psalm 88 | Lamentations 3:37-58 | Hebrews 4:1-16 |

**\***There is no Eucharist on Holy Saturday