

# PALM SUNDAY WEEKEND OF 1-2 APRIL

## HOLY WEEK

### REFLECTION

It is only once in every three years that we publicly share together Matthew's full account of the arrest, trial and death of Jesus. Today is that day. Matthew's passion is rich in every sense of the word. It is the longest account of what Jesus endured and it also has the most diverse cast of characters. Only Matthew devotes time not only to the tragic fate of Judas, who was filled with remorse, but even to the thirty pieces of silver that were used to buy a cemetery for foreigners called the Field of Blood. Only Matthew tells us about the dream of Pilate's wife which leads her to send a message to her husband that he should have nothing to do with Jesus. Matthew's Gospel features a number of dreams. Joseph is told in a dream to take Mary as his wife, to flee with his family to Egypt and later to return from Egypt. Dreams are one of the many links between Matthew's Gospel and the Hebrew scriptures.

This is by no means to say that Matthew's Gospel is merely an interesting piece of literature. It is only to suggest that, in Holy Week, Matthew's Passion is a wonderful encounter to enter slowly as we spend time with the Lord, allowing the mystery of the cross to deepen

within us. One commitment we might make is to take a section each day this week and stay with it for ten minutes.

*Monday: Mt 26: 14-35*

*Tuesday: Mt 26: 36-56*

*Wednesday: Mt 26: 57-75*

*Thursday: Mt 27: 1-26*

*Friday: Mt 27: 27-56*

*Saturday: Mt 27: 57-66*

The trial and death of Jesus reminds us of the tragedy of injustice that continues to this day in so many places around the world. Throughout Lent, Caritas Australia, through Project Compassion, has attempted to draw our attention to many important issues in our world. We have been invited to take up the cross and follow Jesus in our own time. We can pray, with Jesus, *'Let it be as you, not I, would have it.'*



### DON'T FORGET

TO CREATE YOUR PARISH  
FUNDRAISING PAGE AT:  
[WWW.CARITAS.ORG.AU/  
PROJECT-COMPASSION](http://WWW.CARITAS.ORG.AU/PROJECT-COMPASSION)



It's through the generosity of people like you that we can continue to support people like Laxmi, Teresa, Priscilla and Thu.

The funds you raise can help vulnerable communities around the world improve their access to food and clean water, support education and skills training, help families to increase their income and provide training in disaster risk reduction. Together, we can continue to transform lives today – and *For All Future Generations.*



### PRAYER OF INTERCESSION



We pray that the mystery of the death of Jesus will deepen within our hearts. May we be ready to take up the cross in our time, especially as we support those who experience injustice throughout the world.

### FUNDRAISING IDEA

Encourage each parishioner to donate on Easter Sunday using the Project Compassion Easter Envelope distributed by a volunteer at the door as parishioners enter or leave Mass (contact your Diocesan Director for envelopes if these have not been provided). Remember to turn over your Project Compassion poster after Easter to show the Project Compassion Thank You poster, acknowledging the generosity of parishioners this year.

### BULLETIN NOTICE

You can help by making a donation through Project Compassion boxes and envelopes, or visit [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phone 1800 024 413.

**“WHEN I FINISH  
MY STUDIES,  
I WANT TO  
GET RID OF  
MY MOTHER'S  
STRUGGLES.”**

**LAXMI**