

Catholic Church of the Presentation - Montana

Parish Priest : Fr Sam Madza SMA - Cell: 063 157 5421 (*Emergencies only please*) **Office Hours:** Tuesday to Friday 09:00 -12:00 **Office Telephone :** 012 543 2771

Addresses: 214 Veronica Rd, PO Box 908862, Montana 0151, Pretoria **Email :** montana.catholic.pretoria@gmail.com **Website :** montanacatholicchurch.com

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord” Mt 21:1-11

As we prepare ourselves at home for this year’s Palm Sunday, we are mindful of physically sharing in the sufferings of Jesus Christ who triumphantly enters Jerusalem. In Exodus 23 three important pilgrim feasts were annually celebrated by the Jews: Passover, Pentecost and the feast of tabernacles. In the Old Testament, the Passover began in Egypt and ended in Canaan but in the New Testament, it begins in Jerusalem and ends in the heavenly realm with the resurrection and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Two groups in the crowd acclaim Jesus as he enters the holy city. The Galileans hail him “Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord”. But the Judeans shout “this is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee”. In other words, they have no idea. There were ethnic tensions between these groups. Thus, the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem does not go down well with the Judeans. They are part of the crowd that will in some days cry for his death; “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

The presence of Jesus is always a sign of contradiction to the powers of this world. God comes in on a donkey, symbolising peace and humility, inaugurating in a new era. The city is shaken at the birth of the messiah and it shakes again at his entry. We can all feel the quiet and calm of our country at this moment. May Holy week be the key to unlocking the meaning of Passover for us as we look forward to the promise of Zechariah 9:9 “say to daughter of Zion: Look your king comes to you; he is humble, he rides on a donkey and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden”.

Praying for our parish,

Fr. Sam Madza, SMA

We wish you all a very meaningful and Blessed Holy Week

Commencing Holy week in Lock down

Today the Church invites us to enter Holy Week with these words from the mass of today, Palm Sunday:

“Since the beginning of Lent, until now, we have prepared our hearts by penance and charitable works. Today (from our homes) we join together in prayer to herald, with the whole Church, the beginning of the celebration of our Lord’s Paschal Mystery, that is to say, of his Passion and Resurrection. For it was to accomplish this mystery that he entered his own city of Jerusalem. Therefore, with all faith and devotion, let us today commemorate the Lord’s entry into the city for our salvation, following in his footsteps in our minds and hearts, so that, being made by his grace, partakers of the Cross, we may have a share also in his Resurrection and in his life.”

Although our church must remain closed through the lock down we have many opportunities to join in the liturgy of the Sacred Paschal Triduum of the Passion and Resurrection of Our Lord, which is the high point of our entire Christian liturgical year via our radios, TVs, cell phones or computers.

The Triduum begins with the Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday followed by the celebration of the Passion of the Lord on Good Friday, and culminates in the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday Evening and closes on Easter Sunday

Suggestions for participating in Holy Week Liturgy during this time of lockdown

- **Radio Veritas** : 576AM and on DSTV Audio Channel 870 Live Streaming: www.radioveritas.co.za
- Jesuit Institute: www.jesuitinstitute.org.za **Live Streaming** Palm Sunday at 09h00, Holy Thursday at 18h00, Good Friday at 15h00 and Easter Sunday at 09h00
- “Catholic Mass Today” from Ontario Canada : www.dailytvmass.com

Let us pray this week:

- For members of our community who are experiencing loneliness during this time of isolation. May we be moved to keep in contact with them and help where we can.
- For our Bishop and Priests as they prepare to celebrate Holy week and Easter separated from their flock. May they be guided by the Holy Spirit to continue to lead us and pray for us.
- For the victims of the Covid 19 disease and for all who are dedicated to healing and comforting the sick, the afflicted and dying. May they have the strength and commitment to survive this pandemic

Parish Bank Account for regular pledges and EFT : Bank: Standard Bank, Montana Kolonnade Beneficiary: THE CHURCH OF THE PRESENTATION
Account number: 013157108 Reference : Allocated Pledge number or anonymous if preferred.

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