



# ST CHARLES' BORRROMEO, PAISLEY

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**SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2021**

## 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." - Jn 12:23-24

## **Observances for the week of March 21, 2021**

Sunday: 5th Sunday of Lent

Monday:

Tuesday: St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop

Wednesday:

Thursday: The Annunciation of the Lord

Friday:

Saturday:

Next Sunday: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord; Holy Week begins

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## **Gospel Reflection**

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Any good teacher or parent will tell you that once a lesson is really learned it doesn't need to be taught again. When we internalise things we have learned, they become a part of who we are and influence how we perceive and interact with our world. The same is true for the law God has written upon our hearts. Once humanity learns this lesson, we will simply know it to be true and act accordingly. Sometimes, it is hard to get people to learn the lessons they need to learn. They are often distracted, disinterested, conflicted, misdirected, or just too stubborn and unable or unwilling to see what is right before their eyes. Understanding that God is in a loving and committed relationship with those fashioned and formed in God's own image, seems like such a simple lesson to learn. But history and experience has proven that it is not.

We struggle with faith, especially when that faith asks us to learn something very particular about ourselves. We must, like a grain of wheat, fall to the ground and die. Because God's DNA is at the very core of who we are, there are specific pearls of wisdom that must be acquired before we can live a full life. One very powerful lesson is that it is not the task of the world to tell us who we are and what has meaning, but God. For many, death is not an opportunity for greater life but a permanent ending to the life they have known. Jesus knew every dimension to what it means to be fully human because he was! He knows the joys, limitations, sorrows, frustrations, wonders, suffering, opportunities, and joys of the human experience. Jesus can teach us a wealth of knowledge and life's lessons from his example, especially obedience.

When we accept the law God has placed in our hearts and gain wisdom from it, then when we suffer we learn to listen more attentively to the Voice behind that law. We naturally flee to our Creator for inspiration, consolation, hope, direction, and comfort as we navigate through this time of darkness. We will not need to run from it, subdue it, fight it, or be overcome by it because we will know, having internalised this profound lesson before, that God will bring new life. God's law is love and love never fails. Even in the moments of Jesus' deepest despair, he glorified the name of his Father. What he learned allowed him to put everything in perspective and be obedient to the tender, loving Voice that echoed within. As Lent quickly winds down, may we learn the same! Then, may we gain the fortitude and wisdom to help others see what is right before their eyes.

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# Notices

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## ONLINE SERVICES

Please continue to join together in our celebration of Mass each day. While limitations remain in place for gathering for Mass, all our Masses will be streamed.

Our Masses this week are as follows:

### **Sunday 21st March**

**Mass at 10am**

***Weekdays (ex Thur) at 10am***

***Thursday at 7pm***

***Saturday at 10am***

### **Sunday 28th March (Palm Sunday)**

**Vigil Mass (27th) at 5pm**

***Sunday Masses*  
at 10am, 12 Noon, 5.30pm**

From Friday of this week, Masses will once again be open for communal worship constrained by the limitations that the Government has imposed for public safety. To ensure social distancing **42** people are able to book through our booking systems for each Mass.



## BOOKINGS FOR MASSES

Thanks be to God, from Friday 26th March it is possible to be at Mass in the Church. At this point all Masses, other than the Saturday morning Mass, will be available for booking.

Since we need a system that also accommodates the celebration of funerals, we will return to our previous system.

Masses will become available to book from a Friday evening. The new bookings will be for the Monday thereafter through to the following Sunday. The bookings can be done through our online booking system (Eventbrite) or by calling the Booking Number.

Thanks for your patience during these times. Please consider others when making bookings - during this time our weekend capacity is less than a fifth of our normal weekend congregations.

**TO BOOK CLICK HERE**

**OR CALL 07593 825035**

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## DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK

**5pm on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Friday**

**6.30pm on Thursday**



## VIRTUAL COFFEE MORNING

**After Sunday Mass, beginning at 11am**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4355897940?pwd=NnVuYmpjc2kySnZOcjA5Q2l0Z05QQT09>

## THANK YOU

For your continuing donations to support the parish over these past months. While these are essential for us, for many people this is a difficult time and everything that you give is very, very gratefully received and much appreciated

Donations can be made in various ways -

- many people have started using Standing Orders, the forms are available on our website and should be returned to Fr. Jim.
- Online donations can be made through online offertory button on our website.
- envelopes can be posted in the white collection box at the entrance to the church
- Or through the Church House letterbox.

## VOCATIONS

Think Vocation: Some people approach Philip to ask if they can meet Jesus. Perhaps you could be the one who introduces others to him today, especially in his word and through the sacraments. Contact Fr. J Morrison on 0141 889 5056 or e-mail [vocations@rcdop.org.uk](mailto:vocations@rcdop.org.uk)

## ONLINE MARRIAGE COUNSELLING AVAILABLE DURING COVID 19 CRISIS

Our diocese has a Counselling Service for Catholics Married in the Catholic Church with our dedicated Catholic Marriage Counsellor. If you are concerned about your relationship and feel you are both unable to reach a conclusion alone, it is likely that you will benefit from marriage counselling. The counsellor is there to maintain a neutral, non-judgmental position. For information or advice please email in confidence [counselling@rcdop.org.uk](mailto:counselling@rcdop.org.uk)

## THE DRAMA DISPLAYED: A JOURNEY OF SALVATION

The series of online talks concludes this month. In the next talk on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March, "Signs of Passion", Pam Moon will examine the Turin Shroud. On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March Sr Emanuela Edwards will speak on "The Life to Come" and Michelangelo's Last Judgement:

<https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/the-drama-displayed/>

## LEGISLATION & LITURGY:

A webinar for clergy on Church-State relationships in the light of the pandemic, led by Alliance Defending Freedom International. Bishop John Keenan will offer an introduction. Takes place at 4pm on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March. For info and registration: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/pastoral-practice-today/>



## WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

**Question:** What is a spiritual communion?

**Answer:**

The practice of making a “spiritual communion” dates back several centuries and St. Thomas Aquinas described it as “an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him.” Traditionally, a prayer of spiritual communion has been used by those who are unable to receive sacramental communion because of health, inability to attend Mass, or who cannot receive communion because of grave sin. This practice has been encouraged by many saints and spiritual writers and most recently Pope Francis encouraged the practice when the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic prevented so many Catholics from taking part in the Mass or receiving sacramental communion.

Although the graces offered in spiritual communion are not the same as those offered in the sacramental communion of the Mass, this practice is still a powerful opportunity to express our desire for union with the Lord and to be united with Christ and the Church, even in an imperfect way.

***My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, And I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, Come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.***