

AMPLEFORTH ABBEY

PALM SUNDAY 2011

Then one of the Twelve, the man called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said: 'What are you prepared to give me if I hand him over to you?' They paid him thirty pieces of silver, and from then onwards he began to look for an opportunity to betray him. On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus to say, 'Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?' He said, 'Go to a certain man in the city and say to him, 'The Master says: "My time is near. At your house I am keeping Passover with my disciples." 'The disciples did so and prepared the Passover. When evening came he was at table with the Twelve. And while they were eating he said, "In truth. I tell you, one of you is going to betray me.'" (Mt. 26:14-22)

A TASTE OF FUTURE GLORY



The truth of Christ's humanity and divinity is brought out in many ways in the Gospels. One of these is in the many references to his sitting at table to eat and drink with others. His readiness to eat with tax-collectors and sinners causes scandal – as does his disciples' failure to observe the ritual washings before meals prescribed in the Law of Moses. It is highly fitting that Jesus' greatest gift to his followers – and to ourselves now – should take place at his Last Supper on earth. The Passover celebration receives a new and far deeper meaning – and we are given the ultimate lesson in how the gift of oneself is essential to genuine friendship. The Mass of the Lords Supper on Maundy Thursday – with the Washing of Feet – is a call to renew our often flagging commitment to make that love and service real and more evident to the world around us – and not only during this Holy Week.

HOLY WEEK LITURGIES IN THE ABBEY CHURCH

Sun.	17 April	PALM SUNDAY	10.00
Mon.	18 April	Feria	09:00
Tues.	19 April	Feria	09:00
Weds.	20 April	Feria	09:00
Thurs	21 April	Maundy Thursday	18:30
Fri.	22 April	GOOD FRIDAY	09:00
Sat	23 April	Holy Saturday	09:00

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A YEAR-LONG PASSIONTIDE



In the (relatively) peaceful and secure West, we easily take for granted the freedom to celebrate Passiontide and Easter in security. Once again, however, Christians in the Middle and Far East are in a very different position. The concerted drive to eradicate Christianity from Iraq; selective use of blasphemy law in Pakistan, and the apparently terminal erosion of a once-thriving Christian community in the region of Christ's birth, are all reminders that there is nothing inevitable about the Church's survival in any specific area. Christ's promise to Peter remains: the Church throughout the world will not fail until he returns – but this gives none of us any grounds for complacency.

A MEDITATION FOR GOOD FRIDAY



Let the blood and water that flow from your heart give me a new heart to live a new life. I know that in this world water and blood will never be separated. There will be peace and anguish, joy and tears, love and agony. They will be there always—together—leading me daily closer to you who give your heart to my heart.

Henri Nouwen

WEEKDAY MONASTIC OFFICE IN THE ABBEY CHURCH

6.00 a.m. Matins

7.30 a.m. Lauds

8.45 a.m. Little Hour

6.00 p.m. Vespers

8:15 p.m. Compline