



ST. MARGARET'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

HOME OF ST. MARGARET'S RELIC

PALM SUNDAY - YEAR (A)
29th MARCH 2026



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

DATE	CHURCH	TIME & LITURGICAL SERVICE	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 28th	St. Margaret's	10am - Holy Mass followed by the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10.30am - Confession 5pm - Confession 5.30pm - Holy Mass	Gerard Walsh RIP Tony Cascarino RIP
Sunday 29th <i>Palm Sunday</i>	St Margaret's Holy Name	9.30am - Holy Mass 11am - Holy Mass 12pm - Confession	Thomas & Elizabeth Hutton RIP Thomas McGuinness RIP
Monday 30th	St. Margaret's	7pm - Holy Mass	Sr Mercine FCC RIP
Tuesday 31st	Holy Name St. Margaret's	9am - Holy Mass, followed by Stations of the Cross 10am - Holy Mass 6pm - St Margaret's PS Primary 7 Passion Play	Albert Gatt RIP Tony Cascarino RIP
Wednesday 1st Apr	Holy Name St. Margaret's	9am - Holy Mass followed by Stations of the Cross 10am - Requiem Mass for Alice Williams	Rory Hume RIP
<i>Thursday 2nd Apr</i> <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	St. Margaret's	7pm - Watching at the Altar of Repose, followed by Stations of the Cross	For the Priests who have served our Parish
Friday 3rd <i>Good Friday</i>	Holy Name St. Margaret's	3pm - Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord followed by Stations of Cross in the garden 7pm - Veneration of the Holy Cross	
<i>Saturday 4th</i> <i>Holy Saturday</i>	St. Margaret's	9.30am - Gathering around the empty Cross 8pm - Easter Vigil Mass	Robert Brant
Sunday 5th <i>Easter Sunday</i>	St Margaret's Holy Name	9.30am - Holy Mass - Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord 11am - Holy Mass - Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord	For the People of the Parish For the People of the Parish

Mass Intentions - If you would like a mass to be offered, complete a Mass Intention envelope (for SM in the card stand and at the back of the church; for HN on the table at the entrance of the church) and either hand it to the Priest or put through the Presbytery door. For legibility, please print your intention in BLOCK CAPITALS. **Please note mass intentions slots can regularly already be filled, up to a month in advance.**



Obituary – Please remember in your prayers:

Alice Williams – Her funeral will take place on Wednesday 1st April with requiem mass at 10am at St. Margaret's followed by interment at Dunfermline Crematorium.

Winifred (Winnie) Cassells – Her funeral will take place on Thursday 9th April with requiem mass at 10am at St. Margaret's followed by interment at Dunfermline Crematorium.

Our thoughts & prayers go to the bereaved families and friends. May their souls rest in peace.

Crypt Cleaner wanted for St Margaret's

Required for 3 hours a week (paid position) please email desk.stmargarets@gmail.com if you're interested.

Invitation to Mass

The Divine Mercy group at the Parish of St Mary Magdalene invite you to join them on Sunday 12 April at 3pm in St Paul's Church, Glenrothes. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Hall.

OWG Breakfast – Thanks!

A huge thank you to all who attended last week's OWG Breakfast, which was sponsored by Liz & Paddy Mallan, to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with their parish community. It was a wonderful morning with filled rolls, a moving speech from Paddy, then cake. A total of £450 was raised for OWG Funds. Thank you for your generosity.

Sick in the Parish – We would like to ask your prayers for: **Billy McGuigan, Barbara Fotheringham Larkin, Chic Irvine, Tommy McGowan, Ann Shaw, Maureen Hunter, Yvonne McRoberts, Margaret Woodland, Mike Pendlowski, Therese Walsh, Pauline Gatt, Kathleen Penman, John Cassells, Helen Ssim, Frances Henderson, Peter McCourt, James Payne, Andrew Kelly, Teresa Lynch, Gail Pearce, Mrs Lamont, Margaret Fotheringham, Elaine Cormack, Denise Reilly, Maureen Black, Margaret McPherson, Anne Donaldson, Nan Lomas, Janet McIlwaine, Esther Wren, Anne McPherson and Margaret Wilson** during their period of illness.

If you would like a family member or friend to be remembered in the bidding prayers, please complete the form which are at the back of each church, or email details to the Parish Office office.stmargaret@dunfermline.staned.org.uk



HUGE THANK YOU!

We had a fantastic response to last weekend's Foodbank drive at HN & SM. Your generous donations weighed in at over 423kgs, with an additional £85 donated. When people come to the Foodbank they are hungry and dejected, even embarrassed because they have to ask for help but this will help them smile knowing they have something to eat tonight.

Thank you to Cathy Dellar, Tom Canning and teams for organising the collections.



ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

For a full list of upcoming events in the Diocese visit:

www.archedinburgh.org/news-events

Chrism Mass

Clergy from across the Archdiocese will gather for the Chrism Mass at St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh this Tuesday (31 March) at 7pm, during which they will renew their priestly promises. This is a wonderful opportunity to support our priests. The sacred oils, blessed during the Mass, will also be distributed to parishes for use throughout the coming year.

Holy Week at St Mary's Cathedral

Archbishop Cushey will be at St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh for the following Sacred Triduum liturgies: 7pm on Holy Thursday; 3pm on Good Friday; 8pm on Holy Saturday; Midday on Easter Sunday. Full Holy Week and Easter schedule for the Cathedral, including confession times, at www.stmaryscathedral.co.uk/easter2026

Stations of the Cross

The Archdiocese's Lenten Stations of the Cross concludes this Monday at 7:45pm. Includes a reflection from Fr Federico Dundas SJS. Register at bit.ly/stations26

Lourdes summer pilgrimage

There are some spaces available on the Archdiocesan Summer Pilgrimage to Lourdes for supported pilgrims and their carers, as well as nurses. Supported pilgrims are those who are ill, disabled or infirm, and they will fly out with the Archdiocese from Edinburgh and stay in the Saint Frai supported accommodation. Please email enquiries@edinburgh-lourdes.com. Demand for spaces on the plane for hotel pilgrims is high, but they can still take part in the pilgrimage. Contact Tangney Tours to be placed on a waiting list or to ask about alternative travel arrangements. Visit <https://www.tangney-tours.com/>

Save the Date – The annual Archdiocesan Mass for Married and Engaged Couples takes place at 7pm on Friday 19 June in St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh.



Dear Parishioners,

As we draw near to the sacred culmination of Lent, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to each of you for journeying with our Lord during this holy season. Your active commitment to renewing your lives through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving has been a powerful witness to the Gospel call to conversion. Thank you for your enthusiastic participation in our Lenten penitential evening and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, where so many hearts returned to the Father's merciful embrace. Your generosity during our Parish Day of Fast—with savings donated to the local food bank—embodied the spirit of fraternal charity. And what a grace-filled day it was for our "A Day with the Lord" adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, drawing families, children, and parents together in silent encounter with Christ truly present among us. These moments have strengthened our parish as a true community of faith.

Now, as Lent yields to the Easter Triduum—the three most sacred days of the liturgical year—I warmly invite you to join us fully in these celebrations. The Easter Triduum begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, continues through Good Friday and Holy Saturday, and reaches its summit in the Easter Vigil, concluding with the Holy Mass on Easter Sunday. These days form the heart of Holy Week because they commemorate the decisive events of Christ's Passion, Death, and Resurrection—the Paschal Mystery that brings salvation to the world. By participating, we not only recall these mysteries but relive them in the "today" of the liturgy, allowing the Church to re-read salvation history and open our hearts to its spiritual power.

Palm Sunday: Christ's Messianic Entry (Sunday 29th March at 9.30am in St Margaret's and at 11.30am in Holy Name)

Holy Week opens with Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, commemorating Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem amid shouts of "Hosanna!" We begin with the blessing of palms. Spiritually, this day calls us to acclaim Jesus as Lord and to embrace the cost of discipleship.

Holy Thursday: The Institution of the Eucharist (Thursday 2nd April at 7pm at St Margaret's)

On Holy Thursday evening, we celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper, recalling the night Jesus instituted the Eucharist—"This is my body... This is the cup of my blood"—and washed his disciples' feet in humble service. The Blessed Sacrament is reserved for the sick and adored at the altar of repose, evoking the agony in Gethsemane. It marks the start of the Triduum, shifting our focus from Lenten penance to the paschal fast.

Good Friday: The Passion of the Lord (Friday 3rd April at 3pm at Holy Name)

Good Friday is a day of fasting and abstinence, with no Mass celebrated; instead, the Church gathers in the afternoon for the Celebration of the Lord's Passion. We hear the Passion narrative, pray for the world's salvation, adore and venerate the Holy Cross—from which flowed the sacraments of the Church—and receive Holy Communion from hosts consecrated the previous evening. Unlike the previous years, if the weather permits, we will pray the stations of the cross in the outside Garden. We will also hold a service of the Veneration of the Holy cross at St Margaret's at 7pm, which would deepen our meditation on his redemptive death.

The Easter Vigil: The Mother of All Vigils (Saturday 4th April at 8pm at St Margaret's)

The Easter Vigil—held during the night—is "the greatest and most noble of all solemnities". This sacred night culminates in proclaiming Christ's Resurrection through the Service of Light, Liturgy of the Word, and renewal in the Paschal Mystery. Witness the blessing of baptismal water recalling salvation history, as our elects are reborn in Christ, sharing fully in His victory over darkness and entering into full communion with the Church. Spiritually, it reveals the Paschal Mystery's fulfilment, urging full participation to experience baptismal renewal and the triumph of light over darkness.

My dear friends, these liturgies of Holy Week and the Triduum are not mere commemorations but transformative encounters with Christ's saving love. Come, bring your families and friends, and let us adore together what we have prepared for in Lent. Schedules are on our parish website and bulletin—do not miss this grace!

**With gratitude and Easter joy,
Fr. Syriac**

PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION

Presbytery & Parish Office Address:

St. Margaret's Presbytery, 4 Viewfield Terrace, Dunfermline, KY12 7HZ



www.stmargaretsdunfermline.co.uk



All Liturgical Services in St. Margaret's Church are livestreamed.

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Colleen Gilchrist

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Sonia Mallan

Parish Comms & Digital

stmargaretsnews@gmail.com

Newsletter deadline Wednesday 10am

Sacraments

Please email or phone the Parish office to make an appointment with Fr Syriac to arrange: Baptisms, Marriages (6 months notice required), Funerals, Sacrament of the Sick or visits to the housebound/hospital.

UPCOMING SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 2026

SM & HN Building Fund
1st Sun every month

Ecclesiastical Students
26 April

Communications
17 May

ST MARGARET'S PARISH REGISTER

Registration Instructions

1. Use QR code
2. Enter your details
3. An email will be sent with an invitation to My ChurchSuite.



You can use My ChurchSuite to edit your personal information, and to update your contact preferences.

WEEKLY OFFERTORY & MONTHLY STANDING ORDERS/DIRECT DEBITS

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS

SM - OFFERTORY
21/22 Mar: To follow
SO/DD £1020.00

HN - MONTHLY OFFERTORY:
12 Feb-11 Mar: £1025.84
SO/DD £1015

SCIAF Sunday
HN: £226.88

HN: Ian McDonald
E: Ian.McDonald@staned.org.uk
SM: Rosemary Thomson
E: Rosemary.Thompson@staned.org.uk

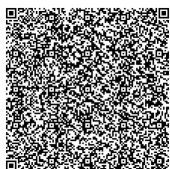
PARISH BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

ACCOUNT NAME, SORT CODE & ACCOUNT NO

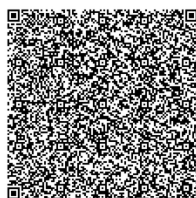
CHARITY BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

ACCOUNT NAME, SORT CODE & ACCOUNT NO
If you're a UK Tax payer, contact Parish office to register for Gift Aid

Archdiocese of St Andrews & St Margaret
83-06-08 21522638



The Holy Name Parish
83-33-00 ~ 00176355



St. Margaret's One World Group
83-33-00
10191867

SM SSVPAE02044
80-06-55
00768139

HN SSVPAE02040
80-22-60
13364166

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONTACT INFO:
SM stmssvp16@gmail.com, T: 07851 793295 / HN T: 07709 110706

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SCRIPTUREREADINGS

PALM SUNDAY - YEAR (A)



FIRST READING Isaiah 50:4-7

The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary.

Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught.

The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backwards.

I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting.

But the Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced;

therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

SECOND READING Philippians 2:6-11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 22(21):8-9. 17-18a. 19-20. 23-24. R2a

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Gospel Acclamation

Philippians 2:8-9

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Christ became for us obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 26:14-27:66

KEY: N. NARRATOR. ✕ CHRIST. S. SPEAKER OR SPEAKERS OTHER THAN CHRIST

N. At that time: One of the Twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,

S. What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?

N. And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.

Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying,

S. Where would you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?

N. He said,

✕ Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'

N. And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

When it was evening, he reclined at table with the Twelve. And as they were eating, he said,

✕ Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.

N. And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another,

S. Is it I, Lord?

N. He answered,

✕ He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.

N. Judas, who would betray him, answered,

S. Is it I, Rabbi?

N. He said to him,

✕ You have said so.

N. Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said,

✕ Take, eat; this is my body.

N. And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying,

✕ Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

N. And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,

✕ You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.

N. Peter answered him,

S. Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.

N. Jesus said to him,

✕ Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.

N. Peter said to him,

S. Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!

N. And all the disciples said the same.

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples,

✕ Sit here, while I go over there and pray.

N. And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them,

✕ My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.

N. And going a little further he fell on his face and prayed, saying,

✕ My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.

N. And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter,

✕ So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.



SCRIPTUREREADINGS

PALM SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR (A)



GOSPEL (CONTINUED) MATTHEW 26:14-27:66

KEY: N. NARRATOR. ✕ CHRIST. S. SPEAKER OR SPEAKERS OTHER THAN CHRIST

N. Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed,
✕ My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.

N. And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. Then he came to the disciples and said to them,
✕ Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.

N. While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the Twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'The one I will kiss is the man; seize him.' And he came up to Jesus at once and said,

S. Greetings, Rabbi!

N. And he kissed him. Jesus said to him,

✕ Friend, do what you came to do.

N. Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him. And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. Then Jesus said to him,

✕ Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?

N. At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

✕ Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.

N. Then all the disciples left him and fled.

Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. And Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said,

S. This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'

N. And the high priest stood up and said,

S. Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?

N. But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him,

S. I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.

N. Jesus said to him,

✕ You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.

N. Then the high priest tore his robes and said,

S. He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your judgement?

N. They answered,

S. He deserves death.

N. Then they spat in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, saying,

S. Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?

N. Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said,

S. You also were with Jesus the Galilean.

N. But he denied it before them all, saying,
S. I do not know what you mean.

N. And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders,
S. This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.

N. And again he denied it with an oath:

S. I do not know the man.

N. After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,

S. Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you.

N. Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear,

S. I do not know the man.

N. And immediately the cock crowed. And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, 'Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.' And he went out and wept bitterly.

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. And they bound him and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate the governor.

Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, saying,

S. I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.

N. They said,

S. What is that to us? See to it yourself.

N. And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said,

S. It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since it is blood money.

N. So they took counsel and bought with them the potter's field as a burial place for strangers. Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken by the prophet Jeremiah, saying, 'And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him on whom a price had been set by some of the sons of Israel, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me.'

Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him,

S. Are you the King of the Jews?

N. Jesus said,

✕ You have said so.

N. But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate said to him,

S. Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?

N. But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

S. Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?

N. For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. Besides, while he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him,
S. Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream.

N. Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor again said to them,
S. Which of the two do you want me to release for you?

N. And they said,

S. Barabbas.

N. Pilate said to them,

S. Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?

N. They all said,

S. Let him be crucified!

N. And he said,

S. Why? What evil has he done?

N. But they shouted all the more,

S. Let him be crucified!



SCRIPTUREREADINGS

PALM SUNDAY - YEAR (A)



GOSPEL (CONTINUED) MATTHEW 26:14-27:66

KEY: N. NARRATOR. ✕ CHRIST. S. SPEAKER OR SPEAKERS OTHER THAN CHRIST

N. So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,

S. I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.

N. And all the people answered,

S. His blood be on us and on our children!

N. Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying,

S. Hail, King of the Jews!

N. And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying,

S. You who would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.

N. So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying,

S. Hail, King of the Jews!

N. And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

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S. You who would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.

N. So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying,

THE NICENE ("Niceno-Constantinopolitan") Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

S. He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'

N. And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying,

✕ Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?

N. that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said,

S. This man is calling Elijah.

N. And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. But the others said,

S. Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.

N. And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

All kneel for a period of silence.

N. And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said,

S. Truly this was the Son of God!

N. There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,

S. Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.' Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead', and the last fraud will be worse than the first.

N. Pilate said to them,

S. You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.

N. So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Pope Leo XIV proclaims a Franciscan Jubilee Year for the 800th anniversary of the transit of St. Francis of Assisi



Leo P.P. XIV

It is with joy that the Church announce the promulgation of the Decree establishing a special Jubilee Year in commemoration of the Eighth Centenary of the passage of St. Francis of Assisi.

His Holiness Pope Leo XIV has arranged that, from the 10th January, 2026 to the 10th January, 2027, this Year of St. Francis will be celebrated, during which all the Christian faithful are invited to follow the example of the Saint of Assisi, becoming models of holiness of life and constant witnesses of peace. The Apostolic Penitentiary grants the plenary indulgence under the usual conditions to those who participate devoutly in this extraordinary jubilee, which represents an ideal continuation of the Ordinary Jubilee of 2025.

The grace of this Jubilee Year is extended to all the faithful without distinction who, with their spirits removed from sin, visit in the form of a pilgrimage any Franciscan church or place of worship dedicated to St. Francis in any part of the world. The elderly, the sick and those who for serious reasons cannot leave home will also be able to obtain the plenary indulgence by spiritually joining the Jubilee celebrations and offering their prayers, pains or sufferings to God.

In this time of celebration that culminates eight hundred years of Franciscan memory, the Church cordially invite all the faithful to take an active part in this exceptional Jubilee. May the shining example of St. Francis, who knew how to make himself poor and humble in order to be true alter Christus on earth, inspire our hearts to live with authentic Christian charity towards our neighbour and with sincere longings for concord and peace among peoples. Following in the footsteps of the Poverello of Assisi, let us transform the hope that made us pilgrims during the Holy Year into fervour and zeal of effective charity.

May this Year of St Francis be for each one of us a providential occasion for sanctification and evangelical witness in the contemporary world, for the glory of God and the good of the whole Church.