

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER
IN
ST JOHN'S & ST MARY MAGDALENE'S

Monday 30 March: 7.00pm: St John's: **ECUMENICAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Of all Catholic devotions, the Stations of the Cross are probably the ones to which Christians of all denominations can most identify. This year, members of all the different denominations on Portobello, Magdalen and Bingham will join together to pray the Stations – PLEASE COME to welcome our fellow Christians ... and stay for tea & coffee in St John's Parish Hall afterwards.

Tuesday 31 March: 7.00pm: St Mary's Cathedral: **CHRISM MASS**

Archbishop Cushley and the priests of the Archdiocese gather together to renew their priestly promises – and for the blessing of the oils used in the celebration of the sacraments.

THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM (Three Days)

ON THURSDAY, we celebrate the signs of the new covenant, the sacraments, especially the Eucharist in which Christ gave himself for us, and the priesthood; and also the call to discipleship and service.

ON FRIDAY, we celebrate Jesus Christ, the paschal lamb who takes away the sins of the world.

ON HOLY SATURDAY NIGHT AND EASTER SUNDAY– the most important moment in the Church's year – we celebrate the fulfilment of Christ's Passover from death to life – as we pass over with him to new life.

HOLY THURSDAY: 2 APRIL

7.30pm: St John's: **MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

The solemn commemoration of the institution of the Eucharist has been associated with Thursday since the 4th century and is combined with another tradition, *the Mandatum or washing of the feet*. This year, after Father Jock has washed the feet of some of the apostles, the final words of the Gospel account of the Washing of the Feet will be read:

'When he had washed their feet and put on his clothes again, he went back to the table. 'Do you understand' he said 'what I have done to you? You call me Master and Lord, and rightly; so I am. If I, then, the Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you should wash each other's feet. I have given you an example so that you may copy what I have done to you'.

He will then invite anybody willing to '*copy what I have done*' – i.e. those who might be open to washing feet and having their feet washed to come forward in pairs, using the four pairs of chairs available on the sanctuary. Be prepared (i.e. no tights, if you wish to participate!) but **no one has to participate if they don't want to, so please don't be put off!** This year there will also be a fifth pair of chairs for those without a partner who will kind of take pot luck in terms of whose feet they will wash...! Before that, at the Gloria, we ring bells as a sign of our joy at the Gift of the Eucharist, but after that the bells are not heard until the Easter Vigil.

After Holy Communion, the mood of the celebration changes from one of gratitude to one of desolation and mourning. Then the Blessed Sacrament is carried in procession to the altar of repose (in the Hall) and **from 9.00pm WE WATCH AND PRAY** with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. (**'My soul is sorrowful to the point of death. Wait here and keep awake with me.'**) Adoration concludes with **NIGHT PRAYER** at **10.50pm**.

GOOD FRIDAY: 3 APRIL

10.00am: St John's: CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS

3.00pm: St Mary Magdalene's: **SOLEMN LITURGY OF THE LORD'S PASSION WITH VENERATION OF THE CROSS AND HOLY COMMUNION**

7.30pm: St John's: STATIONS OF THE CROSS

With Ash Wednesday, Good Friday is one of only two days of fasting and abstinence in the year.

N.B. 10.45am: Following Children's Stations of the Cross, an invitation to walk to St Mark's to join with other churches in Portobello and walk back to St John's for a short Ecumenical service, followed by tea, coffee and hot cross buns in the Hall. All welcome!

The Novena of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy begins today and continues until the Sunday after Easter, the Feast of Divine Mercy – when there will be a celebration between 3pm and 5.30pm at St Mary's Cathedral.

HOLY SATURDAY: 4 APRIL

On Saturday, the Sabbath, the Church worldwide pauses at the Lord's tomb contemplating his passion, death and descent to the underworld; and in fasting (the annual 'paschal fast') awaiting his resurrection.

10.00am: St John's: A shortened version of Morning Prayer and the Office of Readings.

8.30pm: St Mary Magdalene's: **EASTER VIGIL MASS OF THE RESURRECTION**

In the early years of the Church's celebration of the feast of Easter, it was the custom to keep vigil at night. Subsequently, the celebration for the solemn lighting of the candles was created. This rite developed into the liturgy of the new fire and the blessing of the Paschal candle. The hymn of praise sung at the lighting of the Easter Candle goes back to the 7th century at least. It is known as *the Exultet*. On this night we hear the whole story of our redemption as it culminated in Jesus. In the earliest days of the Church it was also the time when adults were baptised into the Church, something that has been revived in recent years. In our community, we will welcome seven catechumens and candidates into full communion with the Catholic Church. They are **Angela McGreevy, Stephen Finlayson, Chelsea Foley, Dionne Harper, Albert Caballero, Sharleena Asiatico, and Vito Simone**. Please pray for them.

EASTER SUNDAY: 5 APRIL

9.30am: St John's: **EASTER CHILDREN'S MASS** with baptisms of Lily & Anna Hunter.

11.30am: St Mary Magdalene's: **EASTER CHILDREN'S MASS** with baptisms of Josh Crolla and Kayla & Amelie Blair.

