

**THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF BENALLA**

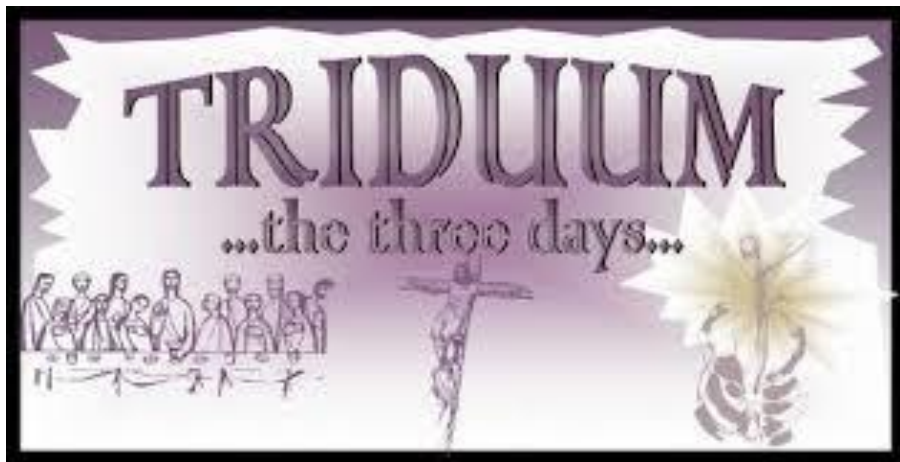
**HOLY TRINITY, BENALLA**

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**Maundy Thursday –**

**Good Friday –**

**Holy Saturday/Easter Sunday**

**9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2020**

**NOTE TO ALL READERS**

This bulletin replaces the usual weekly sheet.

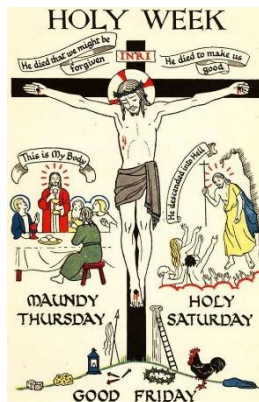
It is designed to be a means of assisting your devotions over the next few days.  
Please use it as such and not as a document to be read and absorbed in one sitting.

With every blessing for these days and a joyous Easter.

*Fr Bill.*

As the Lenten season of sacrifice and self-denial approaches its conclusion, we now prepare for the most sacred time of the year for us as Christians – The three days of Christ’s passion – commonly called The Triduum (a Latin word meaning “three days”) .

During this time, we commemorate and remember our Lord’s institution of the Eucharist and the example of service he gave in washing his disciples’ feet on Holy Thursday, his suffering and death on the cross on Good Friday, and his glorious resurrection on Easter Sunday!



This year, due to the COVID-19 crisis, we will not be able to attend the special liturgies that help make this time so special. So, as we endure together the new world order that we currently find ourselves in, let’s make this situation positive by doing some of the quiet personal and / or family prayer that we often don’t have time to do in normal times. It would be a tragedy to let this long “stay-at-home” period go by without taking some time for extended prayer and reflection. So steal away for as much time as you can and let the Spirit help you pick and choose which of the Holy Week and Triduum devotions that follow will best help you make the most of this special time.

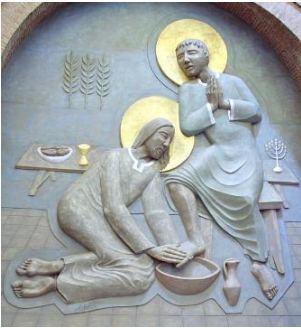
Because it is an intense immersion in the fundamental mystery of what it is to be Christian, try, too, to look at and understand this time of self-isolation as a graced moment for us and the world — how God is calling us to clear our schedules of unnecessary activities and fix our minds and hearts on Jesus and what he did for us. If you find putting aside the time difficult, try to see it as a way of bearing the cross so that you may be worthy of wearing the crown he wore.

So we pray:

O God, who anointed your Only Begotten Son with the Holy Spirit and made him Christ and Lord, as we enter this most sacred time graciously grant that, being made sharers in his consecration, we may so suffer with him that we might rise with him at his glorious resurrection and also bear witness to your Redemption in the world. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

## HOLY THURSDAY- BEGINNING OF THE TRIDUUM

### Collect



Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment, to love one another as he loved them: write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, who gave his life and died for us, yet is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### Readings:

Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; Psalm 116; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-15

Jn. 13 deals with the beginning of the Triduum – the words and deeds of Jesus on the evening of Holy Thursday, including the washing of feet of the disciples and the Last Supper discourse and priestly prayer of our Lord, Jesus’ arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane and Peter’s denial. Prayerfully read as much of this as you can—these are some of the most powerful and moving chapters in the entire Bible, perfect for prayer during this sacred time.

### Meditation:

You gave us an example to imitate.

Holy Thursday is one of the truly marvellous days in our faith community. We celebrate the gift of the love of Jesus - the Eucharist - given to us for our nourishment, given to us as an example of self-less love.

In our prayer today, we let our Lord wash our feet – love us unconditionally – and we let Jesus be broken and given for us. We pray that we might be faithful to the one commandment of Jesus – that we might love others in the same way that we have been loved.

Where charity and love are found, there is God.

### Intercessions:

Father, we remember with joy the Supper of the Lord. As Jesus washed the feet of his followers, may we learn from him that your way demands our service of others.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Grant that those called to ministry in your Church may be wise leaders in the community, eager to share your word with their fellow servants in the Church.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray to you for all who are hungry, that they will be fed, that those who are alienated will be reconciled, and that those who plot evil will be turned towards you.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

At this time of Pandemic we pray for the leaders of this world's nations, that you will fill their minds with wisdom, their hearts with compassion, and their actions with integrity and love, to bring health to the sick, strength to those who care for them, and comfort to families and sufficiency to those unemployed.

We pray too for salvation to all the victims who have died.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

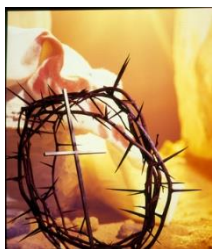
### **Closing Prayer:**

Loving Provider, you gather us in this upper room with your Son, to be fed by your love. At that supper, Jesus told us to “love one another” and we know that this is the heart of his gift, his sacrifice for us all. We ask that each might find the source of their own heart, the meaning for their own life, in that Eucharist. Guide us to the fullness of your love and life.

## GOOD FRIDAY

### **Collect:**

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen



### Readings:

Isaiah 52:13-53:12;

Psalm 22;

Hebrews 10:16-25;

John 18:1-19:42

What this day holds before us, with clarity, power, and challenge, is the way Jesus was aligning himself to whatever stood before him in the moment, and on this day the cross is the culmination of that way of being. At any point along the way Jesus could have backed down, turned away from his life, and ignored the event of the moment. But he didn't. He always responded to what was calling in the event of the moment. Read carefully and prayerfully St John's account of Christ's Passion.

When the soldiers and police come to arrest Jesus he steps forward and asks, “Whom are you looking for?” “Jesus of Nazareth,” they say. “I am he.” He’s clear about who he is and he doesn’t deny it, even when he could, even when it might have benefitted him. He remains true to himself.

Peter cut off the right ear of Malchus, the high priest’s slave. “Put your sword back into it’s sheath,” Jesus tells Peter. And in Luke’s account Jesus heals Malchus’ ear. He doesn’t run or fight back. He stays true to his nonviolent way. He remains a healer.

During his interrogation by the high priest Jesus says, “If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?” In those words we hear Jesus’ alignment with truth.

The cock crows an exclamation point to Peter’s three denials of Jesus. It happened just as Jesus said it would. And Luke tells us Jesus turned and looked at Peter. Peter turned away from Jesus but Jesus, true to himself, turns to his own. He was abandoned but he would not abandon.

Why didn’t Jesus speak up before Pilate? Pilate wanted to release him. He could have said, “I am not a king. I have no kingdom. I’m just an ordinary Jew. Caesar is King.” But he didn’t. Jesus refused to play the world’s game of power.

According to Luke Jesus said nothing to Herod. No answers, no argument, no defence, no excuses. He is who he is and he knows it. There was nothing to say. He was aligning himself with a peace that passes understanding.

He was mocked, struck, spit upon, given a crown of thorns. And he did not turn away. He gave himself to a courage that is born of weakness and powerlessness.

“Here is your king,” Pilate says. And Jesus carried his cross to Golgotha and there they crucified him, king and cross in complete alignment.

Luke tells us that on the cross Jesus prayed forgiveness for his murderers. He protests the injustices done to him, not with revenge, but with forgiveness. Jesus aligned his life in such a way that justice for the unjust means forgiveness not punishment.

In John’s account of the gospel Jesus unites his mother and the disciple whom he loved. “Woman, here is your son.” “Here is your mother.” Intimacy. Community. Love. Compassion. These are the qualities and values of a life aligned to something beyond itself.

“It is finished.” Those are Jesus’ last words in John’s account of the gospel. They are not words of defeat or the end of the story. They are Jesus’ recognition that his alignment with life, with the world, with you and me, with the call to which he was always responding, is now complete, fulfilled. “It is finished.”

All along the way Jesus was turning and aligning himself in two directions. He aligned himself with the people, events, circumstances, concerns, and needs that were before him regardless of who or what it was. We might think of this as his alignment with the horizontal axis of life. And he aligned himself with whatever was happening and being called for in the name of God: love, forgiveness, peace, mercy, justice, hospitality, healing, truth. We might think of this as his alignment with the vertical axis of life.

Reflect: What does that alignment look like in my life today and what is there asking to be aligned – both horizontally and vertically?

### **Intercessions**

Lord, guide your Church throughout the world: That she may be true to her calling to proclaim the Good News and bring your salvation to all people.

We pray for the whole of your people throughout the world: that the Spirit will guide us all in what we do and what we proclaim and keep our lives in alignment with the needs of people and all that God calls us to do.

We pray for those who do not believe in you and your Christ: that they may discover the truth about Jesus and be shown the way of salvation.

We pray for all who serve the community in public office: that you will watch over them: that through their words and actions, their deliberations and decisions, people everywhere may know freedom, security and peace.

Pray for all in special need, those who are sick, afflicted by war and famine, or natural disaster: that you will give strength to the weary, and new courage to those who have lost heart.

At this time of pandemic we pray:

Almighty and merciful God, source of all life, health and healing, look with compassion on our world, brought low by disease; protect us in the midst of the grave challenges that assail us and in your fatherly providence grant recovery to the stricken, strength to those who care for them, and success to those working to eradicate this scourge. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## HOLY SATURDAY (EASTER EVE)



A day of quiet reflection. The crowds, shouting, and turmoil of Good Friday have given way to silence and stillness. There is no meal or intimacy like on Maundy Thursday. The excitement and hope of Palm Sunday's triumphal entry have ended with two women and a sealed tomb. This year there is no Vigil to anticipate and be ready for.

Holy Saturday is the morning after: the morning after the funeral, the morning after he or she said, "It's over," and walked out, the morning after the diagnosis, the morning after your plans failed, the morning after your dreams were shattered, the morning after your life fell apart.

Every one of us has a morning after story. For some of you, today is Holy Saturday not just on the church calendar but in your life. You are living the morning after. And we all know that the morning after is not a single day. Sometimes the morning after lasts months or years leaving us to wonder if anything is worth the effort. Living in this time of enforced isolation may be like that for you.

In whatever direction we look on the morning after all we can see is a large stone blocking our way. Our future seems sealed and well-guarded. It's difficult, impossible, to see beyond the morning after.

On the morning after we do not want the possibilities that are before us. We want the impossible. We want life, more life, a new life. And on Holy Saturday that looks impossible.

"If mortals die, will they live again?" Will we live again? Isn't that really our question on Holy Saturday? We want the possibility of the impossible. We want a future.

And that future, the possibility of the impossible, comes to us in the Holy Saturday of our life. That's why we make the effort to show up the morning after, and the one after that, and the one after that. We don't know when or how the impossible will come to us, but let's not miss it when it does.

On Holy Saturday we come to sit not just opposite the tomb but in opposition to the tomb. Holy Saturday is a sit in. We show up again and again with faith and hope to protest. Holy Saturday is our call to protest the large stone of death, trusting that someday, somehow, somewhere, "we shall overcome."

We shall overcome.

O God, Creator of heaven and earth: Grant that, as the crucified body of your dear Son was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy Sabbath, so we may await with him the coming of the third day, and rise with him to newness of life; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## EASTER SUNDAY

Alleluia!

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us:

So let us celebrate the feast;

Not with the old leaven, nor with the leaven of corruption and wickedness:

but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. 1 Cor. 5. 7.

Alleluia!

Christ once raised from the dead dies no more:

death has no more dominion over him.

In dying, he died to sin once for all:

In living, he lives to God.

See yourselves, therefore, as dead to sin:

And alive to God, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Rom. 6. 9.

Alleluia!

Christ has been raised from the dead:

the first-fruits of those who sleep.

For since by one man came death:

by another has come also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die:

even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 1 Cor. 15. 20.

Alleluia!

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:

and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:

world without end. Amen.

## THE COLLECT

Glorious Lord of life, by the mighty resurrection of your Son, you overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him. Grant that we who celebrate with joy Christ's rising from the dead, may be raised from the death of sin to the life of righteousness; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



## Readings:

Acts 10: 34 – 43; Psalm 118:1-2, 16- 17; 22-23; Colossians 3: 1-4;  
Matthew 28: 1-9



“He is not here; for he has been raised.”

So the angel tells the women in today’s gospel. Good for Jesus! But what about you? What about me? Have we been raised? Are we alive? And what about those we love? Have they been raised? Are they alive?

On this Easter Sunday, then, ask yourself this: Where do you expect to see Jesus? Here in Benalla? In your home? Among family and friends? In strangers, foreigners, and those who are different from you? In the midst of suffering and death? In the joys and celebrations of life? In times of insight and learning? In relationships? In silence and stillness? In the attempts to live a good life? In the failings to live a good life? In the pain and heartbreak of life? In the struggle to rebuild a relationship? In the refugee? In your marriage? In the challenges of parenting? In becoming the parent and caretaker of your own mother or father? In the midst of illness? Old age? In good conversation and laughter? In intimacy and vulnerability with another?

Yes. The answer is yes. Those and a thousand other places are where resurrection is. Can you see that we are the repository of resurrection? We are the resurrection miracle. Resurrection does not exist separate and apart from our lives and it is not exclusive to Jesus.

If we cannot find and see Jesus in our ordinary everyday life we surely will not find him anywhere. Even (were we able to be) in our churches today amongst the alleluias, lilies, hymns, icons, shiny brass, candles, white vestments, and beauty of this sanctuary. Those things are not intended to set this day apart from all other days. Instead, this day is intended to reveal the resurrection truth and reality of all other days.

The stone was not rolled away from Jesus’ tomb to make his resurrection possible. It wasn’t rolled away so that Jesus could get out. It was so that we could see in. So we could see that there is no death, there is only life. Resurrection isn’t just an event in history, it is a way of being. It is a life fully lived.

The empty tomb is not simply the conclusion to Holy Week, a divine remedy to a human tragedy. It is the epitome and recapitulation of everything Jesus said, did, or taught. When it comes to resurrection it seems God just can’t help himself. Resurrection is just who and how God is. There is nothing but life. There is only life.

## **Intercessions**

Almighty and Eternal God

Whose goodness and grace overflowed when you raised Jesus from the dead,  
Let your goodness and grace continue to flow upon your people.

Especially in the time of pandemic we pray for those, like the women of old, whose lives have been stopped because they couldn't roll away a stone that was blocking their path to new life and hope. Roll away the stone of despair and hopelessness that the light of Jesus Christ may shine into the darkness to bring joy and warmth again.  
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Roll away the stone for those still stuck at Good Friday; those whose strength is failing through ill-health, those who have contracted the corona virus, those whose spirits are flagging through depression, whose determination is being sapped through addiction.

Lord God roll away the stone that they might better see the path stretching out before them a path unused except for your footprints etched out in the morning dew.  
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

In the light and the glory of the Resurrection, we pray for our world: for areas of violence and hostility, for lands where famine and disease are rife, for peoples who look in vain for the rains to come to guarantee a harvest, for all those who today would struggle to find joy in the resurrection story.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Bless our Prime Minister and the National Cabinet and the members of the several parliaments in our nation as they address the issues of health, employment and the economy confronting us at this time: that they may lead our country with all wisdom, righteousness and justice.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Bless your world-wide Church; its clergy and office bearers that they may offer wise and sensitive leadership. We pray especially for Clarence, our Bishop and the clergy and parish leaders of this diocese of Wangaratta. Encourage, too, our membership that we may be true to our calling to follow the Risen Christ.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

On this Easter Day hear now our own prayers in silence as we remember before you those nearest and dearest to our own hearts confident that you care and that you hear the earnest prayer of every heart.....

We offer these prayers to you Lord God always mindful of the great company who compass you about, the ransomed and the redeemed of all the ages. As once they inspired us by their living so may they continue so to do till the day of our own homecoming to you through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## POSTSCRIPT

### EASTER WEEK

The Resurrection of the Lord is too great of an event to celebrate for only one day! Following the Jewish practice of celebrating the Passover for eight days (an “octave”), the early Church celebrated Easter in high gear for an entire week. One great way for us to continue this tradition is to read a different resurrection Scripture each day of Easter week ( If we were able it would also include attending the Eucharist daily, or at least on as many days during the Easter octave as we can).

#### **Mon. Matthew. 28: 8-15**

##### **Collect:**

Grant, we pray, Almighty God, that we who celebrate with awe the Paschal feast may be found worthy to attain to everlasting joys; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

#### **Tues. John. 20: 11-18**

##### **Collect**

O God, who by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light: Grant that we, who have been raised with him, may abide in his presence and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be dominion and praise for ever and ever. *Amen.*

#### **Wed. Luke. 24: 13-35**

##### **Collect**

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

#### **Thurs. Luke. 24: 35-48**

##### **Collect**

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**Fri. John. 21: 1-14**

**Collect**

Almighty Father, who gave your only Son to die for our sins and to rise for our justification: Give us grace so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness, that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**Sat. Mark. 16: 9-15**

**Collect**

We thank you, heavenly Father, that you have delivered us from the dominion of sin and death and brought us into the kingdom of your Son; and we pray that, as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his love he may raise us to eternal joys; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

