



NEWSFORUM

PARISH OF THE BLESSED TRINITY

Holy Week & Easter 2018

THE EASTER TRIDUUM

We remember the things, that our Lord Jesus did and said, the night before he went to his passion and to his death.
We walk with our Lord through these three days.

The Church invites us to stay with the story, until it finishes.
So over the three days we are called to walk with the whole awfulness of the story with Jesus, reacting in similar ways to the disciples and to Mary.
The Church invites us to be present and to be close to Jesus, to take the story and the mystery with us, to relive it in our own daily lives.

The Lord has many messages for us. We hear about betrayal.

We watch as Jesus gets up from the table and washes the feet of those he calls friends.

We learn from Jesus what it means to wash one another's feet.
Time is quickly running out for Jesus, as his hour approaches : meaning, that right up and until the end Jesus is trying to teach us how to truly be Christian.

We are all called to wash the feet of one another. This act of service is truly a Gospel imperative.

We are called to build the kingdom of God through acts of kindness, of simplicity and of service. These acts of generosity are the essence of the kingdom of God.

None of us is too great, too mighty or too good that we dare excuse ourselves from what the Lord wants.

Let us consider how we can best serve our neighbour, how we can show our love and concern.

Not only for our family members and friends, but more widely, as Jesus has taught us.

Let us hear the Lord speak to us :

"You can call me Master and Lord, and rightly; so I am. If, I, then, the Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you must wash each other's feet. I have given you an example so that you may copy what I have done to you."



As we come with reverence to venerate the cross with a kiss or with a loving touch, we carry with us our own aches and pains, as well as hidden tears in our hearts.

Like Simon of Cyrene, we bear the crosses of others whom we love.

We offer these lives to Christ, who alone can satisfy the longings of the heart, and who offers his prayer, aloud and in silent tears, to the Merciful Father.

We can carry with us those Christians who are suffering for their faith, and who are enduring persecution until death.

We bear the names of our loved ones and of our family members who are sick.

We offer all those people, whose lives have been shattered by tragic events during the last year, and remember their loved ones.

May Our Lady, the Mother of Mercies, intercede for them, so that they may receive the gift of consolation and of comfort.



HOLY SATURDAY, on this most wonderful night of the year, the church celebrates newness, transformation and growth.

The light of Christ has spread and the hope of Christ's resurrection has dispelled fear.

"Having died with Christ we shall return to life with Him."

Christ has risen from the dead and is victorious over suffering, death and sin. AMEN !

Fr. Thomas Murray 



EASTER PRAYER

O Lord, How amazing is your love,
A love that overcomes, endures and redeems. How astounding is your life,
A life that sustains, heals and creates.
How awesome is your hope, A hope that promises, restores and inspires.
How absorbing is your truth, A truth that releases, changes and rebuilds.

How we worship you, as we remember the moment when

Your love conquered.

When out of the cave of sorrow
Jesus arose to release forgiveness to the world.

And each time we encounter this
Resurrection Day we are again
lifted to an eternal place.

Our sin, brokenness and darkness
fall away and your light and peace
flood our lives.

How we thank you for this incredible
celebration we call Easter. Amen

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish of the Blessed Trinity
Zaaiersweg 180, 1097 ST Amsterdam.
Tel (020) 465-2711
email: info@blessedtrinity.nl
www.blessedtrinity.nl

Masses In English

Sunday at 10:30am & 12.00 noon;
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday at 12:30 pm
Both Sunday masses offer a special liturgy for children 4-8 years.

Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday at
11.30 am & Saturday at 3.00 pm - 4.00 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday from 3.00 pm - 4.00 pm or
call to make an appointment.

Religious Ed. Classes for children 8-15 years are
held on Sunday from 11:45 am -12:30 pm

Sacramental Ed. Classes for

† 1st Holy Communion (8 years +)
Classes are held on Saturdays 11.15am - 12.30pm

† Confirmation Classes are held on
Sundays 11.45am - 1.00 pm.

Parish Priest: Fr. Thomas Murray
Emergency 06-54320840

*The Parish of the Blessed Trinity is
primarily funded through
Contributions and Donations. Please
give generously.*

*Direct contributions can be made to
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“Life wasn’t meant to be easy, my child, but take courage: it can be delightful.”
(M. Fraser, former Prime Minister of Australia)

That could be a sentiment experienced by us, Christians, who can look forward to the Easter Triduum of the life of our Lord Jesus Christ. The life of a person, fully man and fully God, was not meant to be easy for Jesus. The author of the Letter to the Hebrews succinctly summarises of Jesus’ earthly life: “During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the One who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.” (Hebrews 5:7-9)

In Mark’s gospel, after patiently instructing his disciples on his mission, and three times having predicted his passion, Jesus courageously took God’s mission of love to the heart of Judaism, Jerusalem, and entered his passion. The late American biblical scholar Fr Raymond Brown put it beautifully, “abandoned by his disciples, betrayed by Judas, denied by Peter, accused of blasphemy by the priests, rejected in favour of a murderer by the crowd, mocked by the Sanhedrin and by Roman troops and by all who came to the cross, surrounded by darkness, and seemingly forsaken by his God,” (A Crucified Christ in Holy Week, Liturgical Press, 1986, p32) Jesus entered willingly and courageously into his passion. However, before his passion, Jesus also consoled his fearful disciples perhaps in stronger words than Mr. Frasers. He famously said: “In the world, you will have tribulation. But take courage; I have conquered the world!” (John 16:33) This is really encouraging!

“He has risen; he is not here.” (Mark 16:6) These are delightful words, heralded to the women at the tomb. This message once again is presented to each one of us today. Through the Paschal Mystery of our Lord we have been given a wonderful life. That wonderful, awesome life which Christ has offered and called to each one of us to walk with him in newness of life, is done through our renewal of baptismal promises: Do we renounce sin, so to live in the freedom of the children of God? Do we believe in God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth? Do we believe in Jesus, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father? And do we believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting? After that the holy water will be used to sprinkle the worshipping community which reminds us of our baptism, dignity, and our place in God’s family. Remember it is the warm holy water!

Let’s thank God for everything that he has done in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. So “hold up our limp arm and steady our trembling knees, and smooth out the path we tread, then the injured limb will not be wrenched, it will grow strong again.” (Hebrews 12:12-13)

Christ is risen Alleluia! He is truly risen Alleluia!

Happy Easter everyone!

On the 17th of March was the Lenten Retreat. It was led by Fr. Koos Smits. It was a very cold day and the forecast was for slippery roads and heavy winds. I am so happy, my wife and I decided to go to the retreat. Fr. Smits is a soft spoken person who keeps one’s attention all through the day. The theme was “The last seven words of a dying Jesus”. The last seven “words” are actually 7 short phrases that Jesus uttered on Calvary. Listening to the meditation of the 7 phrases had a profound impact on me during the retreat. In between these 7 phrases we had moments for silent reflections and for me personally there were moments when my eyes welled up with tears.



The purpose of Lent is not to make ourselves more holy but to increase our awareness of God’s love for us. It is a time away from our normal activities to spend time getting reacquainted with God, to examine the priorities of life. A Lenten retreat goes a long way to achieving this goal. It refreshes, revitalizes, rekindles and deepens one’s relationship with God.

There are also physical benefits to one’s brain during a retreat. Scientists in the US found there were “significant reductions” of five to eight per cent in the binding of two neurotransmitters associated with positive emotions, dopamine and serotonin, in two parts of the brain. Dopamine is involved in cognition, emotion and movement, while serotonin is associated with emotional regulation and mood. Since serotonin and dopamine are part of the reward and emotional systems of the brain, it helps us understand why these practices result in powerful, positive emotional experiences.

Gerard Lobo.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE
for
**Holy
WEEK**

25TH MARCH 2018

10.30AM PALM SUNDAY CHILDREN'S MASS

12.00 NOON PASSION SUNDAY



WEDNESDAY, 28TH MARCH 7.30PM CHRISM MASS AT ST. BAVO CATHEDRAL, HAARLEM

THE EASTER TRIDUUM



HOLY THURSDAY 29TH MARCH 7.00 PM

EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER



**IT IS
FINISHED...**
Paid in Full!



GOOD FRIDAY - 30TH MARCH

3.00 PM THE WAY OF THE CROSS

**7.00 PM CELEBRATION OF THE
LORD'S PASSION**

*Holy
Saturday*

**31ST MARCH 7.00 PM
THE EASTER VIGIL**

Alleluia

*"He is not here;
he has
risen!"*



EASTER SUNDAY - 1ST APRIL

**10.30 AM HOLY MASS
12.00 NOON HOLY MASS**

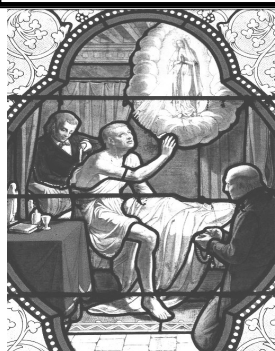
EASTER MONDAY - 2ND APRIL NO MASS

Invitation to Parish' Youth Mass

On the Fourth Sunday of Easter - April 22nd 2018 - the 55th "World Day of Vocations" is being celebrated. The Parish' Youth group, the Seeds of Hope, organizes a Youth Mass on this day at 12:00 PM. And we need your help! In Pope Francis' message for this year's World Day of Vocations he said: "the Fifteenth Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops will meet to discuss the theme of young people and in particular the relationship between young people, faith and vocation." Emphasizing the prayer for young people and vocations, we are happy to invite all young people to the Parish' Youth Mass! Organized for and by the youth! Be an active participant of the Holy Mass, by reading, praying, singing and more!

Please see Daniëlla Amoakoah or Michael Okyere if you would like to participate, or send an email to D.Amoakoah@hotmail.nl or Michael.Okyere@gmail.com Sunday, April 22nd 2018 12:00 PM We hope to see you during the Youth Mass!

**GOING INTO HOSPITAL?
DO YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO
IS SERIOUSLY ILL?
PLEASE LET US KNOW.
THE ONLY WAY WE CAN FIND YOU
IS IF YOU TELL US. LET US KNOW
IF YOU WOULD LIKE A VISIT.
Tel: 020-465 2711 or
email info@blessedtrinity.nl**



Our Lady Health of the Sick, we trust to your gentle care and intercessions those who are sick, the elderly, their caregivers, the lonely and those who are hurting. Help all of us Holy Mother to bear our burdens in this life until we share eternal life with God. We lift up
Dianne Heijstee, Christina P., Anna Carolina, Toos Welling, Ben Tjeong, Baris & Jennifer Klop, Kazuo Fudeuchi, Thomas Gerard, Cecile Gozo, Edith Bajnath, Toni Nierop, Begum Baker, Nathalie Trindade, Victor Nalpon, Alice Enriquez, and Abigail Sharpe.
Our Lady, Health of the sick; Pray for them.

Divine Mercy Sunday

On Easter Sunday millions of Catholics gathered with family and friends to celebrate the day when Christ conquered death and rose from the dead. But that's not the end of the story.

Held a week after Easter Sunday, the understanding of Christian life reaches its completion on Divine Mercy Sunday when the faithful are reminded of the mercy afforded to them by Christ's life, death and resurrection. On the spiritual level, Divine Mercy Sunday also marks the anniversary of St. John Paul II's death. This occurred on the vigil of Divine Mercy April 2, 2005 and without St. John Paul the feast would not have been recognised today.

The devotion of Divine Mercy was spread by a Polish nun that the late Pope canonised before his death. St. Faustina Kowalska shared the message that Christ's love and mercy are stronger than sin. Pope Francis announced the need for Christians to be a witness to mercy; "This is the time of mercy. It is important that the lay faithful live it and bring it into different social environments. I am convinced that the whole Church ...will find the joy needed to rediscover and make fruitful the mercy of God, with which all of us are called to give consolation to every man and woman of our time."

Join us on the Second Sunday of Easter at 1.20 pm, as we pray The Divine Mercy Chaplet.



Egg-tra facts



Although Easter eggs were once part of pagan spring festivals, they've become Christian symbols of new life. A cracked-open shell also represents Jesus' empty tomb on Easter morning. The early Christians of Mesopotamia began staining eggs red in honour of Jesus' blood shed on the cross. Red eggs remain part of Greek Orthodox celebrations today. For Lent, some families used to give up eggs and dairy, so they prepared a pancake feast on Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday. They solved the egg surplus by hard-boiling them in various broths, which led to coloured eggs. In medieval times, churches held "egg-throwing" festivals. The priest threw a hard-boiled egg toward the choir boys, who tossed it back and forth. When the clock struck 12, whoever was holding the egg got to keep it. In some European countries, children go from house to house to collect Easter eggs. The largest ever Easter egg hunt consisted of 501,000 eggs searched for by almost 10,000 children in Florida in 2007. The tallest chocolate Easter egg ever produced stood over 10 metres tall and weighed 7200 kilos — more than an elephant!

Prayer for Vocations

God our Father, look with love upon our homes, our families and our communities. Raise up among us worthy priests, to teach the Gospel to all people, to minister at your altar and to care for your flock.

Fill us with your Holy Spirit and make us faithful and inspiring witnesses to your kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

***To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary.
To one without faith, no explanation is possible."***
St. Thomas Aquinas

St. Francis of Assisi 1181-1226

We have been learning about the life of Francis. Around 1225, the days of Francis going from community to community, like an evangelist and as one of God's singers, are past and gone. Additionally, the years of poverty and traveling had made Francis ill and he was beginning to lose his sight.

Toward the end of Francis's life, he had two things to live for. First, to live the Gospel as perfectly as he could, so that by his example he would show his brothers the right way to live. Secondly, he wanted to supply some new writings that he could not include in the Rule, that was approved by the Pope.

The years that Francis had left he worked with his pen and in his private life. During this time with greater faith than ever, Francis took up the precepts of the Sermon on the Mount: "Blessed are the poor, Blessed are the peacemakers, Blessed are the pure of heart!"

During this time, he spoke to his Brothers and not as if he had authority over them. It would disturb him that Church officials would send his Brothers to places he did not want them to go, and in an emotional outburst he would say, "Who are you to have dared to take my Brothers away from me?" He was afraid that the Brothers would fall away from the ideal and eventually be despised, persecuted and driven back to old ways.

Francis realized that he was no longer obligated to do more than pray for the Brothers and by his example hold up the ideal before their eyes. Francis asked himself, "Can God ask more of a sick man?"

Do you want to learn more about Franciscans? Contact johnk687@yahoo.com

The NewsForum is a publication of the Parish of the Blessed Trinity. All contributions are welcome. Submissions will be edited for brevity and clarity, punctuation and spelling. The deadline for submitting items for the May 2018 issue is 19th April. Please send your articles to info@blessedtrinity.nl.