

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord – 13th April 2025

	Gospel (Luke 22:14-23:56)	Isaiah 50:4-7	Philippians 2:6-11
Context	Jesus was the ideal human and lived the perfect human life. Today's gospel passage describes how Jesus came to be crucified, even though he was completely innocent, having lived a perfect life.	Isaiah is generally regarded as being the greatest prophet of the Old Testament. He accurately predicted that God would send a Messiah (Jesus) to save his people by dying to take away sins.	St Paul wrote to the Philippians to encourage their faith and to show them that true joy comes from a relationship with Jesus Christ.
Key verses	<i>“Crucify him. Crucify him.”</i> <i>“Why? What harm has this man done? I have found no case against him...”</i>	<i>“For my part, I made no resistance...”</i> <i>“...I know I shall not be shamed”</i>	<i>“But God raised him high...”</i> <i>“...every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord”</i>
Key themes/ messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus' human life was at stake when he was brought before Pilate. • Pilate could find no justifiable reason to hand down a death sentence to Jesus. • In speaking to the religious leaders, Pilate pointed out that that Herod could also find no case against Jesus. • The crowd shouted incessantly, urging Pilate to crucify Christ. Pilate, who was afraid for his own selfish reasons, ultimately agreed to the crucifixion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The servant speaks of himself as a preacher of God's Word. • God opens his servant's ear to receive the Word, and he has been faithful in proclaiming it to others. However, those to whom he proclaims God's Word have not responded with gratitude. • God's servant, as described in the Old Testament, has been beaten and humiliated. The New Testament gospels describe how Jesus suffered a similar fate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If we wish to follow Jesus, we should do our best to live the way he lived. • We should gladly serve others, if necessary, by adjusting our mindsets. • As we serve others, we should develop Jesus' attitude of humility, even if we are not always thanked for our efforts. • At the final judgement, everyone will recognise Jesus. Before that day comes, we are strongly encouraged to acknowledge Jesus as Lord in a willing and loving way.
Questions/ application to our lives	When you reflect on the moments leading up to Jesus' death sentence, are we sometimes guilty of ignoring our consciences and going along with the popular majority? What relevance does this type of situation have in today's society at times when religious beliefs and views may be considered unpopular?	Do you take the time to learn about God's Word by regularly reading the Bible and praying that God will give you a greater understanding of this Word? How often do you talk about God's Word to other people in your life, and why is it so important to do so?	To what extent have you thought about the second coming of Christ, and most importantly, what steps have you taken to prepare for the day when Christ will return to Earth? Why is it important to regularly pray for the second coming of Christ?
Further reading			