

Towards Plenary Council 2020-2021  
Passion (Palm) Sunday 2019

*let your will be done, not mine*





# PASSION SUNDAY OF LENT

## From the Readings

**Gospel: Luke 19:37-38.** ... the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice ... 'Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

**First Reading: Isaiah 50:4.** The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied, he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear ...

**Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11.** His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high ...

**Gospel: Luke 22:39-42.** Then Jesus left to make his way as usual to the Mount of Olives, with the disciples following. When he reached the place he said to them, 'Pray not to be put to the test.' Then he withdrew from them, about a stone's throw away, and knelt down and prayed, saying, 'Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, let your will be done, not mine.'

## Reflections

When all seems lost, when no one remains ... it is then that God intervenes with the power of his Resurrection. The Resurrection of Jesus is not the happy ending to a nice story, it is not the "happy end" of a film; rather, it is God the Father's intervention where human hope is shattered. At the moment when all seems to be lost, at the moment of suffering, when many people feel the need to get down from the Cross, it is the moment closest to the Resurrection. Night becomes darkest precisely before morning dawns, before the light dawns. In the darkest moment God intervenes and raises. Pope Francis, General Audience, St Peter's Square, 16 April 2014

We incarnate the duty of hearing the cry of the poor when we are deeply moved by the suffering of others.

Pope Francis, *'The Joy of Gospel'* 193

I am a mission on this earth; that is the reason why I am here in this world. We have

# Towards Plenary Council 2020-2021

to regard ourselves as sealed, even branded, by this mission of bringing light, blessing, enlivening, raising up, healing and freeing.

Pope Francis, *'The Joy of the Gospel'* 273

We may be sure that none of our acts of love will be lost, nor any of our acts of sincere concern for others.

Pope Francis, *'The Joy of the Gospel'* 279



TAKING OF CHRIST 1602 - CARAVAGGIO

## For Thinking and Talking

- 1. From these readings and reflections**, what words, phrases and insights stand out for you?
- 2. Imagine** being one of Jesus' closest disciples during the days before his death. Imagine Jesus walking or sitting with you in whatever troubles you.
- 3. Remember** someone you have known, in person or by learning about them, who was like Jesus in their ways of being with other people, and journeying through suffering.
- 4. Express** a hope or intention for the future.

# Prayer

Lord of the Universe, Master of All,  
look in love upon your people.  
Pour the healing oil of your compassion  
on a world that is wounded and dying.  
Send us out in search of the lost,  
to comfort the afflicted,  
to bind up the broken,  
and to free those trapped.  
under the rubble of their fallen dreams. Amen.  
*Sheila Cassidy, Good Friday People, 57*

---

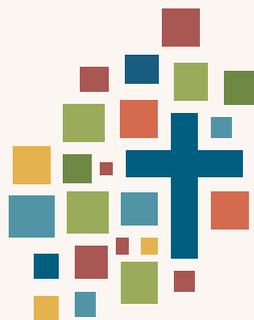
## For Plenary Council 2020-2021

---

### **Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost.**

Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land.  
O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia.  
Lead your Church into a hope-filled future,  
that we may live the joy of the Gospel,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
bread for the journey from age to age. Amen.

(From the Plenary Council 2020 Prayer)



## THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SANDHURST

**Prepared by:** Adult Faith Education Sandhurst, PO Box 201, Bendigo, 3552. 2019.

Email: [adultfaith@sandhurst.catholic.org.au](mailto:adultfaith@sandhurst.catholic.org.au).

**Acknowledgements:** Thomas Merton, 'A Letter to Pablo Cuadra Concerning Giants' in *Bridges to Contemplative Living, Seven*, Notre Dame, In: Ave Maria Press, 2011; Pope Francis, 'The Joy of the Gospel' 193; Pope Francis, 'The Joy of the Gospel' 273; Pope Francis, 'The Joy of the Gospel' 279; Sheila Cassidy, *Good Friday People*, London: Darton, Longman and Todd, 1991.