



Thought for the Day

As we accompany Jesus through these highs and lows of holy week, we're meant to find ourselves in his life and to see Christ in our life too. Each year we read the exact same readings, and yet, we don't read them the same way. Why? Because although the stories from Scripture don't change, we ourselves are not the same people reading them. Since last year's Holy Week, we've had a whole year of growth and change and new joys and sorrows. There may be a piece of this familiar story that we hear in a different way, a new insight that we gain, a new way that this in Jesus's life resonates with our own life.

The Popes Intentions for April - *For priests in crisis*

Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.



St. Colmcille's Pastoral Area

Sunday 29th March 2026



Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Two processions entered Jerusalem on a spring day in the year 30. One was a peasant procession, the other an imperial procession.

From the east, Jesus rode a donkey down the Mount of Olives, cheered by his followers. Jesus was from the peasant village of Nazareth, his message was about the kingdom of God, and his followers came from the peasant class. On the opposite side of the city, from the west, Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of Idumea, Judea and Samaria, entered Jerusalem at the head of a column of imperial cavalry and soldiers. Jesus's procession proclaimed the kingdom of God; Pilate's proclaimed the power of empire. The two processions embody the central conflict of the week that led to Jesus's crucifixion. Jesus's procession deliberately countered what was happening on the other side of the city. Pilate's procession embodied the power, glory and violence of the empire that ruled the world. Jesus' procession embodied an alternative vision, the Kingdom of God. The king, riding on a donkey, will banish war from the land - no more chariots, war-horses or bows. Commanding peace to the nations, Jesus will be a king of peace. It was the standard practice of the Roman governors of Judea to be in Jerusalem for the Jewish festivals to be in the city in case there was trouble. The mission of the troops with Pilate was to reinforce the Roman garrison permanently stationed in the Fortress Antonia, overlooking the Jewish Temple and its courts. No wonder, the Roman governor realised how peasant procession was a threat to his government and, hence, its leader should be exterminated. *Fr Anthony Kadavil*

