

<p>Parish Council and Finance Committee meeting: Monday 15th March at 7:00pm Parish Hall.</p>	<p>HOLY WEEK CEREMONIES AND EASTER Palm Sunday 28th March 2nd Rite of Reconciliation on Wed. 31st March, 11am & 7pm Holy Thursday 1st April Celebration of the Last Supper at 6:30pm Good Friday 2nd April Stations of the Cross 10:00am Passion of the Lord 3:00pm Stations of the Cross 6:00pm Holy Saturday 3rd April Easter Vigil 6:00pm Easter Sunday 4th April Mass at 8:00am and 9:30am</p>	<p>Below are some short introductions to the Holy Week and Easter liturgies.</p>	<p>Holy Week begins on the Sunday before Easter, known as Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday is named after the palm branches the Jews used to praise Jesus as he entered Jerusalem at the start of his Passion. Palms were an important symbol in Jewish history. Specifically, Jesus entered Jerusalem during Passover, a volatile time of year when Jews celebrated their liberation from Egyptian bondage while also yearning for liberation from Roman control. It was during this time of unrest that Jesus publicly announced his Messianic mission by riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, in fulfillment of Zechariah's promise of a peacemaking king for Israel. In their yearning for a king who would liberate, the Jewish crowds welcomed Jesus with palm branches, which in biblical times symbolized victory over oppressors. In commemoration of Jesus' triumphant entry into the Holy City, we use palms on Palm Sunday.</p>
<p>Maintenance Ministry (up keepers of the church and garden) meeting on 17th March at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall (also celebration of St. Patrick's Day).</p>		<p>Pope Francis is visiting Baghdad, Erbil, Mosul, Karakoch, Ur and the holy Islamic city of Najaf this weekend. Let us pray for the blessings of God to all Iraqis.</p>	
<p>Music Ministry, Readers, Acolytes and Eucharistic Ministers, meeting on Thursday 18th March, 7:00pm. Parish Hall.</p>		<p>19th March St. Joseph's Solemnity. 7:30am and 6:00pm Festival Masses. Stations of the Cross at 5pm. After evening Mass gathering in the hall "BYO" to share.</p>	
<p>Our COVID-19 Safety Plan: 1) those with flu symptoms must not enter the church; 2) sanitising hands and registration are strict requirements; 3) singing prohibited; 4) required sanitisation of the seats before and after each service; 5) social distancing 1.5m apart (only 120 seats).</p>		<p>25th March Annunciation of the Lord. Festival Masses at 7:30am and 6:00pm. Daughters of Charity annually renew their vows on this day and Patricia our bookkeeper celebrates her. Birthday. "BYO" gathering in the hall after the evening Mass.</p>	
<p>Daily Masses: 7:30am Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday (Holy Hour, Confession and Mass); Tuesday 5:00pm: Adoration, Novena, Confession, Benediction and 6pm Mass First Fridays: 5pm Holy Hour and 6pm Mass Weekend Mass times: Saturday: Vigil 5pm Sunday: 8am, 9:30am and 3pm (2nd Sun only) Divine Mercy Chaplet with Benediction and Mass. Baptisms after 9:30 Mass (by appt only)</p> <p>You Tube: stjosephcomo</p>	<p>The Paschal candle represents Christ, the Light of the World. The pure beeswax of which the candle is made represents the sinless Christ who was formed in the womb of His Mother. The wick signifies His humanity, the flame, His Divine Nature, both soul and body. The five grains of incense inserted into the candle in the form of a cross recall the aromatic spices with which His Sacred Body was prepared for the tomb, and of the five wounds in His hands, feet, and side. During the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night the priest or deacon carries the candle in procession into the dark church. A new fire, symbolizing our eternal life in Christ, is kindled which lights the candle. The candle, representing Christ himself, is blessed by the priest who then inscribes in it a cross, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, (Alpha and Omega 'the beginning and the end') and the current year, as he chants the prayer below; then affixes the five grains of incense. The Easter candle is lit each day during Mass throughout the Paschal season until Ascension.</p>	<p>17th March, St. Patrick's Feast Day. At 7:00pm please join us in the Hall to celebrate Feast Day. BYO</p> 	<p>During Holy Week some churches cover crosses, statues, and other sacred depictions (not including the Stations of the Cross or stained glass windows) with purple veils. The Roman Missal instructs that, in churches observing this practice, crosses remain covered until the end of the celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, but images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday. This veiling of sacred items reminds us that, without Jesus' ultimate sacrifice and glorious Resurrection on Easter Sunday, our faith and everything sacred related to it wouldn't exist.</p>
<p>Child sexual abuse is a crime. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police or contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org.</p>			<p>To honour the call to service, we participate in a washing of the feet ceremony on Holy Thursday. During the ceremony, up to 12 volunteers sit in front of the congregation and place their bare feet in a bowl. A priest, assisted by ministers, pours water over and dries the feet of the volunteers, sometimes also kissing their feet.</p>
<p>Our sick: Elizabeth Kinsela, Ida Melis, Katrina Marinilli, Rita Shah, Julia Lock, Marie Lawsen, Ian Duffey, Glennise Hall, Eliette Majdandzic; Barbara Eadie, Helen McGuirk, Dragica Furda, May Kenny, Carmen Camilleri, Jan Gurba, Mary Carmen Borg, Norma Cook, Josefa Dabu, Josie Lay, Christine Woodard, Maria Suszycka, Urszula Kaminska, Thea Van Gastel, Josephine Marinilli, Steven Marinilli and all homebound and dear friends from Mildred Symons House (1st Wed. 10:30 mass).</p>	 <p>3 ways to donate to the parish: 1) Scan the bar code on ← the left with your mobile phone camera and follow the instructions therein. 2) Visit our website: https://www.stjosephscomo.org.au/ and click on the "DONATE NOW" button. 3) Copy following link to your web browser: https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/COMOOYSTERBAYPARISH</p>	<p>Fire is one of the most expressive and most ancient of liturgical symbols. All the creeds of antiquity accorded a prominent place to this element whose mysterious nature and irresistible power frequently caused it to be adored as a god. The sun, as the principle of heat and light for the earth, was regarded as an igneous mass and had its share in this worship. Christianity adapted this usual belief, but denied the divine title to heat and light, and made them the symbols of the divinity, which enlightens and warms humanity. The symbolism led quite naturally to the liturgical rite by which the Church on the Eve of Easter celebrates the mystery of the Death and Resurrection of Christ, of which the extinguished and rekindled fire furnishes the expressive image.</p>	