

When Love Stands Silent



Dear Parish Family,

On this solemn day, the Church invites us to pause before the Cross - to stand in silence with Mary, with John, and with all those whose hearts were broken by the cruelty and noise of the crowd. Today, we face the reality that the world once chose Barabbas over Christ - a criminal over compassion, violence over love. And yet, Jesus remains silent. Not in defeat, but in divine strength.

He who healed the sick, welcomed sinners, forgave the broken — is now crucified by the very people He came to save.

This day is not just a moment in history. It's a mirror.

It asks us: **in a world of noise, pressure, and popular opinion — will we stand with Christ, or follow the crowd?**

- Let this day move us not just to sadness, but to reflection.
- Let us step out of the culture of reaction, and enter into the truth of love.
- Let this Cross humble us. Heal us. Save us.

After this great silence, light will return. Christ will rise. And so will we.

Please join us for the following: **Easter Vigil – Saturday, 7:00 PM:** The Church's most beautiful liturgy. We begin in darkness, receive the light of Christ, renew our baptismal promises, and rejoice in the risen life.

Easter Sunday – 10:30 AM Mass: Celebrate the Resurrection with the whole parish. After Mass, we invite all children to enjoy a joyful Easter Egg Hunt, lovingly prepared by our Catechists.

Looking Ahead – Parish Planting Day & Fountain Blessing:

Sunday, 27 April after 10:30 AM Mass: We warmly invite all parishioners to join our Parish Planting Day, where together we will plant over 300 flower plants, shrubs, and grass around the church in honour of our loved ones. You may plant in memory of someone special in your life.

May the silence of the Cross speak deeply to your soul today. And may the joy of the Resurrection soon rise in your hearts.

Understanding Good Friday

THE SOLEMN INTERCESSIONS

The Solemn Intercessions are one of the most ancient and sacred parts of the Good Friday liturgy. On this day, when Jesus gave His life for all humanity, the Church lifts up prayers for the whole world — for every need and every person.

We pray for:

- The Church, her leaders, and all the faithful
- **The Pope**
- **Bishops, priests, deacons, and all the faithful**
- **Catechumens preparing for baptism**
- **The unity of all Christians**
- **The Jewish people and those of other faiths**
- **Those who do not believe in God**
- **All in public office**
- **And all those who suffer or are in need**

Each intercession follows this pattern:

- **A prayer intention is announced**
- **A period of silent prayer is observed**
- **The priest then offers a solemn prayer**

This is the Church at her most united and universal — a community standing before the Cross, praying for the world that Christ died to save.

THE VENERATION OF THE CROSS

After the reading of the Passion and the intercessions, we come to venerate the Holy Cross. The Cross is carried into the church and unveiled gradually. The priest proclaims: “**Behold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the Salvation of the world.**”: **All: “Come, let us worship.” (3 times)**

We then come forward one by one to show love, reverence, and gratitude for the Cross. You may bow, genuflect, touch, or kiss the Cross — whatever is most meaningful for you.

As you come forward, bring with you:

- Your prayers
- Your suffering
- Your thanksgiving
- Your hope

Let this be your moment at the foot of the Cross, just like Mary, John, and the faithful ones who remained with Jesus to the end.

THE PROSTRATION – A SIGN OF HUMILITY AND SORROW

The Good Friday liturgy begins in silence as the priest and ministers enter and prostrate before the altar. This powerful gesture is a sign of: **Humility before God, Sorrow for sin and the death of Christ, Reverence for the mystery of the Cross**

As the priest lies face down in prayer, the faithful are invited to kneel in silent reflection, uniting themselves with Christ in His passion and surrender. This sacred moment prepares our hearts to enter deeply into the solemn liturgy that follows.

The Liturgy of the Word

First reading

Isaiah 52:13–53:12

See, my servant shall prosper, he shall be lifted up, exalted, rise to great heights. As the crowds were appalled on seeing him—so disfigured did he look that he seemed no longer human—so will the crowds be astonished at him, and kings stand speechless before him; for they shall see something never told and witness something never heard before: 'Who could believe what we have heard, and to whom has the power of the Lord been revealed?' Like a sapling he grew up in front of us, like a root in arid ground. Without beauty, without majesty we saw him, no looks to attract our eyes; a thing despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and familiar with suffering, a man to make people screen their faces; he was despised and we took no account of him. And yet ours were the sufferings he bore, ours the sorrows he carried. But we, we thought of him as someone punished, struck by God, and brought low. Yet he was pierced through for our faults, crushed for our sins. On him lies a punishment that brings us peace, and through his wounds we are healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, each taking his own way, and the Lord burdened him with the sins of all of us. Harshly dealt with, he bore it humbly, he never opened his mouth, like a lamb that is led to the slaughter-house, like a sheep that is dumb before its shearers never opening his mouth. By force and by law he was taken; would anyone plead his cause? Yes, he was torn away from the land of the living; for our faults struck down in death. They gave him a grave with the wicked, a tomb with the rich, though he had done no wrong and there had been no perjury in his mouth. The Lord has been pleased to crush him with suffering. If he offers his life in atonement, he shall see his heirs, he shall have a long life and through him what the Lord wishes will be done. His soul's anguish over, he shall see the light and be content. By his sufferings shall my servant justify many, taking their faults on himself. Hence I will grant whole hordes for his tribute, he shall divide the spoil with the mighty, for surrendering himself to death and letting himself be taken for a sinner, while he was bearing the faults of many and praying all the time for sinners. **The word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm**Psalm 31(30):2, 6, 12–17, 25****℟. Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.****Second Reading****Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9**

Since in Jesus, the Son of God, we have the supreme high priest who has gone through the highest heaven, we must never let go of the faith that we have professed. For it is not as if we had a high priest who was incapable of feeling our weaknesses with us; but we have one who has been tempted in every way that we are, though he is without sin. Let us be confident, then, in approaching the throne of grace, that we shall have mercy from him and find grace when we are in need of help. During his life on earth, he 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.

The word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.**Gospel Acclamation****Isaiah 52:13–53:12**

Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour, Word of the Father, calling us to life;
 Son of God who leads us to freedom: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

“Christ became obedient unto death...**God raised Him high and gave Him the name above all names.”**

Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour, Word of the Father, calling us to life;
 Son of God who leads us to freedom: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel**John 13:1–15****Proclaimed by Fr James Raj****The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.****Donate - St Ann's****FOR ST ANN'S CHURCH OFFERING****Account Name: RCAS Kingston Hill****Account Number: 79124429****Sort Code: 60-50-01, Bank: NatWest**

Thank you for being part of our St. Ann's family.
 Let's pray for one another and for the growth of our parish family.