

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Columba's,

the curtain is about to be pulled back on the most profound drama in human history – the drama of our salvation and redemption. As Holy Week begins this year, we will each have our own thoughts, yet these will all be united in a common desire: to be gathered together once again as a living, loving, community of faith here at St. Columba's. How strange it will be to celebrate Palm Sunday in front of our televisions and computer screens, as opposed to engaging in our annual outdoor procession and blessing of palms! No-one's feet will be washed during the liturgy of Holy Thursday. There will be no exposition or veneration of the cross on Good Friday. The Easter Vigil – the most solemn night of the liturgical year – will be celebrated in our churches in silence, save for the lone voice of the priest, who intones the Easter Proclamation. So many things will be different this year. Yet we are united in prayer, in our support of one another, and most of all in our belief in the Risen Christ. *Resurrexit sicut dixit!* “He rose, as he said he would!”

The Holy Father has just recorded a video message for the beginning of Holy Week ([click here](#)). In his message, Pope Francis encourages us all to live out the Christian imperative of selfless service, particularly to those most in need: “Let us try, if we can, to make the best use of this time”, he writes. “Let us be generous; let us help those in need in our neighbourhood; let us look out for the loneliest people, perhaps by telephone or social networks; let us pray to the Lord for those who are in difficulty”.

The Pope continues with the following lovely expression: “Even if we are isolated, thought and spirit can go far with the creativity of love. This is what we need today: the creativity of love.”

Let's celebrate this unusual Holy Week and Triduum with that same creativity of love at the very centre of our hearts and minds. As the words of the Paschal Proclamation remind us,

*This is the night,
when Christ broke the prison-bars of death
and rose victorious from the underworld.*

*Our birth would have been no gain,
had we not been redeemed.*

*O wonder of your humble care for us!
O love, O charity beyond all telling,
to ransom a slave you gave away your Son!*

*O truly necessary sin of Adam,
destroyed completely by the Death of Christ!
O happy fault
that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer!*

With prayers and blessings for you and your families at this most solemn time,
Fr. Domenico.