

## Palm Sunday 14th April 2019

### The Gospel (Passion Reading)

#### Luke 23.1-49

<sup>1</sup>Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate.<sup>2</sup>They began to accuse him, saying, 'We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king.'<sup>3</sup>Then Pilate asked him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' He answered, 'You say so.'<sup>4</sup>Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, 'I find no basis for an accusation against this man.'<sup>5</sup>But they were insistent and said, 'He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place.'

<sup>6</sup>When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean.<sup>7</sup>And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time.<sup>8</sup>When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign.<sup>9</sup>He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer.<sup>10</sup>The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him.<sup>11</sup>Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate.<sup>12</sup>That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

<sup>13</sup>Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people,<sup>14</sup> and said to them, 'You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him.'<sup>15</sup>Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death.<sup>16</sup>I will therefore have him flogged and release him.'

<sup>18</sup>Then they all shouted out together, 'Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!'<sup>19</sup>(This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.)<sup>20</sup>Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again;<sup>21</sup>but they kept shouting, 'Crucify, crucify him!'<sup>22</sup>A third time he said to them, 'Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.'<sup>23</sup>But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed.<sup>24</sup>So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted.<sup>25</sup>He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

<sup>26</sup> As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. <sup>27</sup> A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. <sup>28</sup> But Jesus turned to them and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. <sup>29</sup> For the days are surely coming when they will say, "Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed." <sup>30</sup> Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on us"; and to the hills, "Cover us." <sup>31</sup> For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?'

<sup>32</sup> Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. <sup>33</sup> When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup> Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing. <sup>35</sup> And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah' of God, his chosen one!' <sup>36</sup> The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, <sup>37</sup> and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' <sup>38</sup> There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' <sup>40</sup> But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? <sup>41</sup> And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' <sup>42</sup> Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' <sup>43</sup> He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

<sup>44</sup> It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, <sup>45</sup> while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup> Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' Having said this, he breathed his last. <sup>47</sup> When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, 'Certainly this man was innocent.' <sup>48</sup> And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. <sup>49</sup> But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.