

# PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

25<sup>th</sup> March 2018

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Charity No. SC002876

[www.stmarysfortwilliam.org](http://www.stmarysfortwilliam.org)



Monday Mass at 5 p.m.  
Sacrament of Reconciliation, 5.30 to 6 p.m.

Tuesday Mass at 10.15 a.m.      Wednesday Mass at 10.15 a.m.

## THURSDAY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Mass at 7 p.m.

Vigil at the Altar of Repose until Night Prayer at 10 p.m.

## GOOD FRIDAY

*(Day of Fast and Abstinence)*

Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord at 3 p.m.

Way of the Cross at 7 p.m.

## HOLY SATURDAY

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 10 to 10.45 a.m.; 4 to 4.30 p.m.

THE EASTER VIGIL WILL BEGIN AT 8 P.M.  
THE EASTER MORNING MASS IS AT 10.30 A.M.

We are now entering the most **sacred week** of our Catholic faith. Be faithful to every day of it!

**Our sincere thanks** for your continuing support of SCIAF. The Lenten collection came to £846.48. Well done, St Mary's!

We remember our Faithful Departed. We pray for those whose anniversaries are at this time: **Hugh Davidson, Flora MacInnes, Sheena MacConachie, Simon MacKinnon, Agnes Maguire, Marjory Downie, Marianne Brooks, Frank Keenan and Winnie MacLellan**. We remember also those who have died recently: **Mrs Agnes Hutson**, the mother of Fr. Michael, who was laid to rest in Cumnock on Friday. Fr. MacKinnon remembers Agnes as a warm hearted person, blessed with the gift of Christian humility. We pray also for **Cardinal Keith O'Brien**. When he communicated the news of the Cardinal's death, Bishop McGhee reminded us of the great care that the archbishop gave to our diocese in very difficult times. And Fr. MacKinnon will never forget the attentive and prayerful kindness that Keith O'Brien showed his late sister Margaret in the days when her life was drawing to its end. May all the Faithful Departed rest in the peace of the crucified and risen Lord.

Please prepare for the Good Friday collection for the **Holy Places** of Israel and Palestine, under the guardianship of the Franciscans of the Holy Land. There will be baskets at the back of the church for your donations as you leave the church on Good Friday. Please be generous as always.

There is a sheet at the back of the church for those who would like to keep vigil at the **Altar of Repose** on Holy Thursday night.

**Please be respectful** of the silence in the church from the end of the Holy Thursday Mass until the end of the Good Friday liturgy.

**Our thanks** to those who have volunteered to be readers during Holy Week. There are still some places to be filled.

Please remember that **Good Friday** is a day of fast and abstinence. It is not a day for going out in the town!

*Fr. MacKinnon has always had a very personal devotion to St Margaret Clitherow, martyred on this day, Lady Day, the Feast of the Annunciation. He once had a pupil who was one on her descendants.*



Margaret Clitherow was born in 1556, one of five children of Thomas and Jane Middleton. Her father was a respected businessman, and Sheriff of York in 1564. He died when Margaret was fourteen. She married John Clitherow, a wealthy butcher and a chamberlain of the city, in 1571 and bore him three children. She was well-liked in the city because of the warmth of her heart, her humour and quick wit. She converted to Catholicism in 1574.

Although her husband belonged to the Established Church, he was supportive, as his brother William was a Catholic priest. He paid her fines for not attending church services. She was first imprisoned in 1577 for failing to attend church. Two more incarcerations at York Castle followed. Her third child, William, was born in prison.

Margaret risked her life by harbouring and maintaining priests. She provided two chambers, one adjoining her house and, with her house under surveillance, she rented a house some distance away, where she kept priests hidden and Mass was celebrated through the thick of government persecution. Her home became one of the most important hiding places for fugitive priests in the north of England.

She sent her older son, Henry, to the English College, relocated in Reims, to train for the priesthood. Her husband was summoned by the authorities to explain why his oldest son had gone abroad, and in March 1586 the Clitherow house was searched. A frightened boy revealed the place where priests were often hidden.

Margaret was arrested and called before the York assizes for the crime of harbouring Catholic priests. She refused to plead, thereby preventing a trial that would entail her children being made to testify. Although pregnant with her fourth child, she was executed on Lady Day, (25<sup>th</sup> March) 1586, in the Toll Booth at Ouse Bridge in York, by being crushed to death, the standard inducement to force a plea.

She was stripped and had a handkerchief tied across her face then laid across a sharp rock the size of a man's fist. The door from her own house was put on top of her and gradually loaded with an immense weight of rocks and stones so that the sharp rock would break her back. Her death occurred within fifteen minutes.

Following her execution, Queen Elizabeth I wrote to the citizens of York expressing her horror at such treatment of a woman. Because of her sex, she argued, Margaret Clitherow should not have been executed. Nor should we forget the Protestant cleric who pleaded desperately on Margaret's behalf, but to no avail.