

# Holy Week and Easter at St Columba's, 2024

## **PALM SUNDAY** ..... **24 MARCH**

- 8.30 am Blessing of Palms & Rite I Mass
- 9.45 Sunday School (all ages)
- 11.00 Blessing & Procession of Palms & Sung Mass

## **MONDAY & TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK** ..... **25 & 26 MARCH**

- 7.00 pm Low Mass with Lenten Meditation

## **WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK** ..... **27 March**

- 7.00 pm Low Mass with Lenten Meditation
- 7.30 "Witness at the Cross" Series Conclusion

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY** ..... **28 MARCH**

- 7.00 pm Choral for Maundy Thursday  
*Foot Washing, Stripping of the Altar  
& Procession to Altar of Repose*
- 9.00 pm All-Night Vigil Watch at Altar of Repose  
*A night of prayer and keeping watch with the Blessed Sacrament at the Altar of Repose (Chapel). A deputy sheriff will be on duty throughout the night. You're invited to come for an hour or more anytime from 9pm Thursday through noon Good Friday.*

## **GOOD FRIDAY** ..... **29 MARCH**

- 12.00 n Liturgy for Good Friday, Veneration of the Cross, & Mass of the Pre-Sanctified
- 7.00 pm Stations of the Cross (*outdoors, weather permitting*)

## **THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER** ..... **30 MARCH**

- 8.30 pm The Easter Fire, Procession into the Church & First Mass of Easter

## **EASTER SUNDAY** ..... **31 MARCH**

- 8.30 am Rite I Mass (*no incense*)
- 10.00 Easter Egg Hunt and Festive Reception on the Lawn
- 11.00 Sung Choral Mass (*with incense*)



## About the Great Vigil of Easter

On this holy night when our Savior Jesus passed from death to life, we gather with the church throughout the world in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of Jesus Christ: through light and the Word, through water and the bread and cup, we recall Jesus' death and resurrection, we share Christ's triumph over sin and death, and with inextinguishable hope we await Christ's coming again.

At the Great Vigil of Easter, we all gather outside in the darkness and using the tradition handed down through the Church for centuries, we kindle the new fire of Easter which is the light of Christ rising in glory, overcoming the darkness of sin and death! The Paschal Candle is then lighted. The Paschal candle is large, and traditionally made of 100% beeswax. It is marked with a cross, an Alpha, and an Omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. The four numbers of the year are marked between the arms of the cross, symbolizing that Christ has, and always will be with humanity, and is with humanity now. For much of the year the paschal candle stands near the font and is lighted at every baptism, providing a symbolic link with this celebration of our Lord's Resurrection and our own baptisms. Once the Paschal Candle is lighted, we then each light candles and process into the darkened church, with this new fire of Easter and see the darkness overcome by the light of Christ each of us bears in our hands.

It is the church year's most holy and joyful night, for it proclaims and celebrates all of Christ's saving work. The Great Easter Vigil draws Christians into the reality of Christ's life, passion, death, and resurrection.

This ancient service, dating from the fourth century, is one of the most beautiful and moving liturgies of the entire year. The power of Easter Vigil comes through strong symbols of light and water, together with Sacrament and Word. Everyone who attends for the first time seems to find the Easter Vigil to be an awe-inspiring and solemn way to celebrate what God has done, is doing, and will do. Plan to attend the Vigil this year - it may just bring the true meaning of Easter home for you.