The Easter Story

Palm Sunday

On Palm Sunday, Jesus rode into Jerusalem to the cheers and welcome of the crowd. During the week he moved among the people telling them about the love of God.

Holy Thursday

On Holy Thursday, Jesus and the apostles gathered together to share a meal. At that meal, Jesus blessed the bread and shared it with his apostles saying, 'This is my Body'. He then blessed the wine and shared saying 'This is my blood'. We share in the body and blood of Jesus every time we attend Mass and celebrate the Eucharist. After sharing the meal with the apostles Jesus went with them to pray in the garden of Gethsemane. There, soldiers came and arrested him.

Good Friday

Jesus was brought before Pilate, the Roman governor. He wanted to set Jesus free, but the people demanded that Jesus be put to death. Pilate washed his hands to show he was not guilty of the blood of Jesus, and then he sent Him out to be nailed to the cross. The soldiers treated Jesus with cruelty. They beat Him and placed a crown of thorns on His head. They made Him carry the cross as they led Him to the place where He would die. As the soldiers dragged Jesus through the streets, they led Him to the place where Mary, His Mother, was standing. Mary felt such great sorrow to see her only Son suffering such horrible pain. Yet Jesus had assured her that He must fulfill the Father’s will. So she surrendered her Son to the will of the Father.

The soldiers realized that Jesus was too weak to carry His cross all the way to Calvary, so they forced a man who was standing nearby, Simon of Cyrene, to carry the Cross for Jesus the rest of the way. Many of the people around Jesus mocked Him and spat at Him. One courageous woman named Veronica came forward and wiped the face of Jesus on her veil.

Jesus was crucified at noon and He hung on the cross for about three hours. Even then, He did not forget His love for us. When the end was near, He looked up into the heavens and said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” Then He gave His spirit over to the Father and breathed His last breath.
As evening approached, some of the disciples went and asked Pilate for permission to take down the body of Jesus. Some disciples went to a nearby garden and found a new tomb that belonged to Joseph of Arimathea, who was also a disciple. They laid our Lord’s body in the tomb and covered the entrance to the tomb with a rock.

**Easter Sunday**

Early on Sunday morning some of the women went to the tomb where Jesus had been buried. They found that the stone had been rolled back. An angel told them that Jesus had risen from the dead. The women told the other disciples the good news. Jesus then appeared to them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

You are invited to join with the Parish at the Holy Week Services

**Holy Thursday 28th March**
7.00pm – 10.00pm Mass of the Lord’s Supper followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

**Good Friday 29th March**
10.00am Stations of the Cross
3.00pm Celebration of the Lord’s Passion

**Easter Vigil Saturday 30th March**
7.00pm Mass

**Easter Sunday 31st March**
7.30am Mass
9.00am Mass

St Andrew’s Catholic Church
Clarkson