



PALM (PASSION) SUNDAY LENT 2025

“... Father, forgive them ...” (Lk 23:34)

‘The [Jubilee Year] theme is “**Jesus Christ our Hope**” for He is the aim of our pilgrimage, and He Himself is the way, the path to follow.’
(Pope Francis)

FROM THE READINGS

So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear... For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult or spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

(From Isaiah 50:4-7)

...They crucified him there and the two criminals also, one on the right, the other on the left. Jesus said,

“Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing.”

(Luke 23:33-34)

Read and re-read the Gospel passage, pausing for words or phrases that may ‘stand out.’

Talk with Jesus about what comes to mind or take some moments to rest in God’s loving presence.

THE DESTINATION, THE WAY, THE PATH TO FOLLOW

Isaiah described a suffering servant of God, attacked for compassionate response to the poor and weary. Jesus is God's servant, suffering and bearing the burdens of others, forgiving with his dying breath. Those who met Jesus in his final hours invite our reflection: His friends wait, frightened and helpless, as he is condemned. Peter betrays Jesus. Simon of Cyrene, on what began as an ordinary day, finds himself helping Jesus' journey to crucifixion. Crowds and soldiers mock. Women weep. A criminal turns to Jesus in sorrow, is forgiven and welcomed into the kingdom. The last words of the other are mocking and cynical. Jesus dies with words of forgiveness. A Roman soldier sees and declares Jesus' innocence. Joseph of Arimathea ignores convention to care for his broken body.

Who am I in this story?

FROM FELLOW PILGRIMS – FOR REFLECTION

The Crucified One is God's standing solidarity with the suffering, the tragedy and the disaster of all time, and God's promise that it will not have the final word. The Risen One is God's final word about the universe and what God plans to do with all suffering.

(Richard Rohr, Immortal Diamond)

Most of our prayers begin and end with the Sign of the Cross, to remind us that Jesus on the cross is at the heart of our faith. Because the cross is at the heart of our faith, it is also at the heart of our lives. Our lives and our faith are inseparable. The cross is there for all of us. That is why it is important to recognise the cross when it comes, and accept it for what it is – an invitation to move beyond our comfort zones and go more deeply, in trust, into the mystery of an unconditionally loving God.

(Patrick O'Sullivan, Prayer and relationships, 82)

Yet if we follow Jesus with all our heart, also on this mysterious journey to the cross, courage and trust can be reborn. After we have seen, and opened ourselves to encounter, we will experience the grace of praying, no longer alone but together.

(The Way of the Cross Led by His Holiness Pope Francis, Rome, 30 March 2018)

**O Lord, our Lord,
we have heard the most unlikely story;**
we have seen your saving power in a weak Man...
He bore our uselessness,
and removed all charges against us.
His incomparable love-offering
has become our true peace.

(Bruce D. Prewer, Australian Prayers, 48-49)

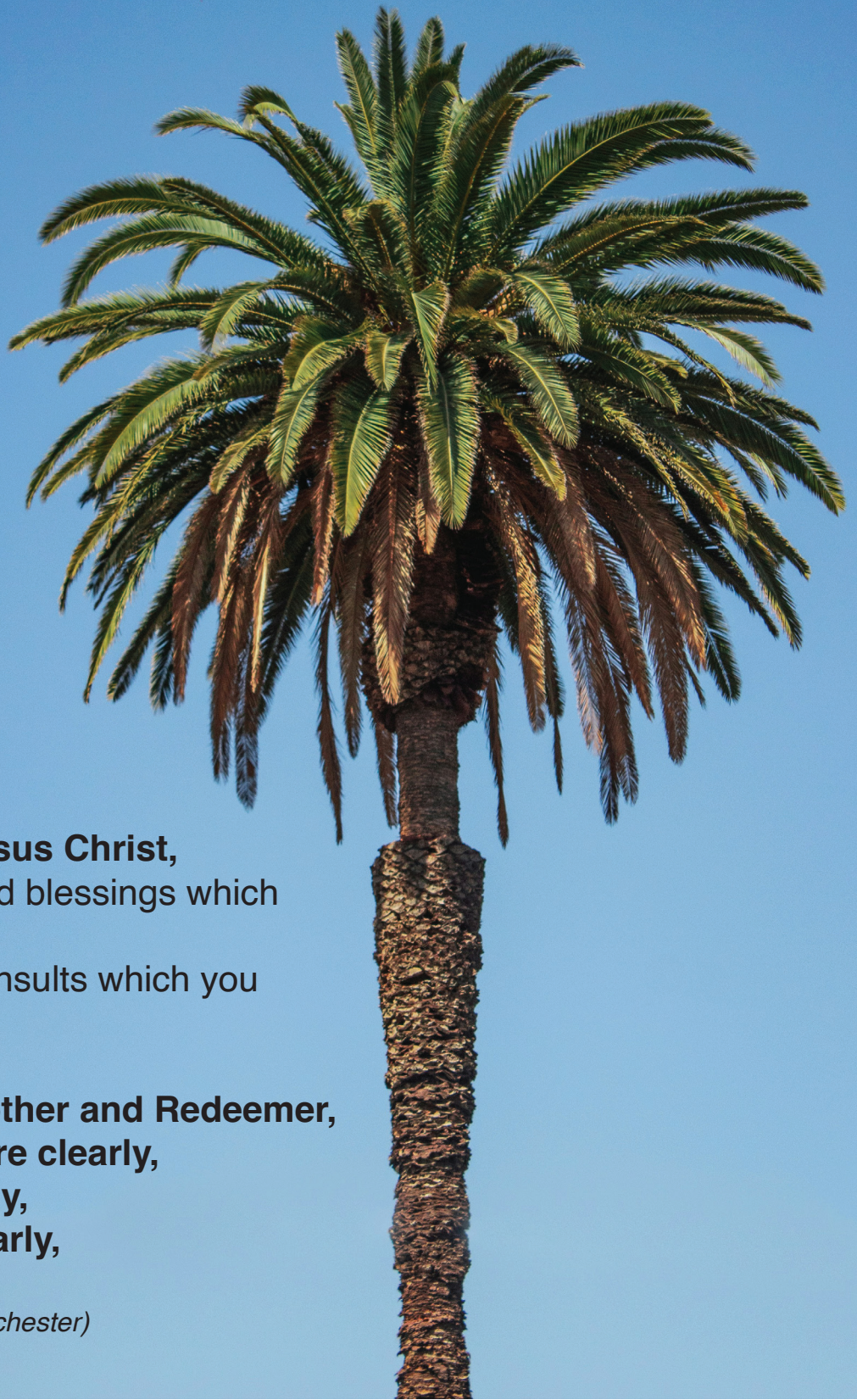
O God, because of my free choice and for the sake of your love alone,
I want to remain here and do what your will demands of me. No, I will not
turn back. *(Mother Teresa of Calcutta, in Praying with the Saints, 224)*

Find words or an image for

- Insights gained from your reading and prayer today.
- A hope, intention or prayer for the future.

You may like to write down your thoughts or a prayer.





A PRAYER

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits and blessings which
you have given me,
for all the pains and insults which you
have borne for me.

Merciful Friend, Brother and Redeemer,
may I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
follow you more nearly,
day by day. Amen.

(Prayer of St Richard of Chichester)



Prepared for Lent 2025 (Year C) for the Sandhurst Diocese: PO Box 201 Bendigo, Vic, 3552
Email: adultfaith@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Acknowledgements: "Jesus Christ our Hope," *Pope Francis, General Audience 18 Dec 2024;*
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Francis, Rome, 30 March 2018 (www.vatican.va); Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester, in Koenig-Bricker,
Woodeene, Praying with the Saints, 204; Rohr, Richard, Immortal Diamond: The Search For Our True Self,
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Contemplation, www.cac.org; Prewer, Bruce D., Australian Prayers, Kingston Springs, Tennessee USA: Ideas
into Books, Westview, 1983, 2002; Mother Teresa of Calcutta, in Koenig-Becker, Woodene, Praying with the
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