



Palm Sunday

16th March 2008

Why is the date of Easter different every year?

It would be so much simpler to have it on a fixed day like the feast of Christmas, for example, or on the second Sunday of March or April, like Mothers' Day or Fathers' Day.

In the Middle Ages, the calculation of the Easter date was very difficult because of the conflict between the different calendars. On the one hand, the headquarters of the Church was in Rome. The Roman calendar - which followed the cycle of the Sun: 365 days - was utilised. On the other hand, Jesus was a Jew and used to follow the calendar based on the cycles of the Moon: 354 days. Therefore, the great events of Jesus' life were fixed following the cycles of the Moon... while the day to day life followed the cycle of the Sun.

That is why the date of Easter has always been a floating date. Every hundred years, a monk was appointed to calculate the dates of Easter for the following century.

In 325, the Council of Nicea fixed the calculation of the Easter date after the following rule:

"Easter is celebrated on the Sunday following the fourteenth day of the Moon (which is the Full Moon), which occurs on the 21st March (the vernal equinox was the celebration of the Roman New Year) or immediately thereafter."

This method of calculation resembles the calculation of the Jewish Passover, but is adapted to the Roman Calendar and ensures that Easter falls on a Sunday.

And so, the date of Easter changes every year. Easter is never celebrated before the 22nd March and never later than 25th April. For example:

If the Full Moon occurs on the Saturday 21st March, then Easter will be celebrated the next Sunday, that is the 22nd March. But if the Full Moon occurs on the 20th March, then one would have to wait for the next Full Moon, which would occur on the 18th April; and if that date is a Sunday, Easter would be celebrated the following Sunday, that is the 25th April.

Weekend masses: **SATURDAY 5 pm** and **SUNDAY 10.30 am**
Confessions: **SATURDAY 4.30 pm** or by appointment
Weekday masses: **TUESDAY 9 am** and **WEDNESDAY 7.30 pm**
First Friday of the month: **ADORATION 6.15 pm** and **MASS 7.30 pm**

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For **Mass intentions** and **appointment** with Father, please contact Shantha by phone at the office on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9.30 to 12.30 OR leave a message on the mailbox OR send an email.
For **Sick calls**, please contact
Clive Padayachee on 011.854.5060 or 072.493.4773
For **Funerals**, please contact **Vivian Patel** on 011.854.8523 or **Cynthia Thomas** on 011.854.5490
In case of emergency only, **Fr. Philippe's** cell is 082.729.3758

Join in the following activities...

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP : every Monday 7.30 pm in the Hall.
Contact Edgar 011 852 4960
INTERCESSION PRAYER GROUP: every Friday 10 am - 24 Opaal Street - Extension 5. Contact Vivian 011 854 8523
PRAYER GROUP: every Saturday 3.30 pm in the Hall.
STOP: every Wednesday @ 7.30pm in the Hall. Contact: Sebastian 078.111.9991 or Gregory 082.902.6721

Timetable of the Holy Week

Monday: *Early bird Mass @ 6 am.*
Reconciliation for Catechumens @ 7.30 pm.

Tuesday: *Mass @ 9 am.*
Paschal Meal @ 7 pm.

Wednesday: *Mass @ 7.30 pm.*

Thursday: *Mass of the Chrism at the Cathedral @ 9.30 for 10 am.*
All parishioners invited.
Mass of the Last Supper @ 7.30 pm, followed by half an hour of adoration.

Friday: *Children's Liturgy (pre-CCD and CCD 1 to 4) @ 10 am.*
Good Friday Liturgy @ 3 pm
During the liturgy, the relevant part of the movie "Jesus of Nazareth" will be shown in the hall to the children who attended the morning liturgy.

Saturday: *Easter Vigil @ 7.30 pm.*

Sunday: *Easter Celebration @ 10.30 am.*

Catechism is closing this weekend and will resume on Saturday the 19th of April.

Follow-up meeting for the parents of first communion candidates on Saturday the 29th April @ 11 am.

The **SVDP** would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all those who donated so generously thus far. If you have indicated that you wanted to donate and have not had a visit from any member yet, please contact one of the members listed below. Alternatively, bring your parcel to the church where it will be collected. Thank You.

Clinton	083 411 5442
Thega	082 375 8064
Elaine	084 200 0209
Desirée	073 412 8916

Altar Servers Roster

Wed 19th : Adrian, Jacklyn, Kewan, Janine P., Andrew
Holy Thursday: Claudene, Janine J., Claudette, Jacklyn, Tiffany, Steven, Justin
Good Friday: Tesania, Nathanie, Janine J., Justin, Janine P., Sashni, Tiffany
Easter Vigil: Kewan, Andrew, Jason, Mitchel, Jacklyn, Steven, Tiffany
Easter Sunday: Claudene, Claudette, Kewan, Andrew, Tesania, Adrian, Bongani

Altar Servers practice on Sunday after mass for ½ hour. All to attend.

Flower List

Vincent & Maya Naidoo, Willem & Rosetta Oktober, Basil Padayachee, Ian & Margaret Padayachee.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 15th : Eugene Peters and deceased family
Sun 16th : All Parishioners
Tue 18th : Swamy Tippru & Sunita Reddy RIP
Wed 19th : Vincent Padayachee RIP
Thu 20th : All Parishioners
Sat 22nd : All Parishioners
Sun 23rd : All Parishioners

We are entering into the most sacred week of the whole liturgical year. Jesus lived out his passion for our sake, giving to the truth its definite seal. This is a time of reconciliation with God, and therefore with the whole of Its Creation. Let us be intensely united with God, through prayer, but also by revising the way we live, the way we relate to others, the way we care, or do not care enough, for the conservation of our planet.

Easter calls us to LIVE FULLY HUMAN according to God's dream. I wish you a very Holy Week. Father Philippe