

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH CATHEDRAL PARISH



Prepared by the Public Relations and Events Committee of the Pastoral
Parish Council

INTRODUCTION

Holy week in the Catholic Church is celebrated between Palm Sunday and Easter, with special devotion to the Passion of Christ. This year, it was celebrated from Sunday 10 April until Saturday 16 April 2022. The main celebrant for the week was the Administrator of St Mary's Cathedral, Fr Shalongo (OMI).

PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday recalls Jesus' triumphant entry into the city of Jerusalem. Parishioners participated in a 2 km procession carrying palms in re-enactment of the jubilant entry of Christ into the city of Jerusalem. The Gospels speak of Jesus entering Jerusalem riding a donkey to the jubilation of the towns people who laid palms, branches of trees, and cloths in front of him as a sign of homage. This was a customary practice for people of great respect.



Men's group preparing palms for Palm Sunday



Palm Sunday procession. While the Men's group is keeping the order



Palm Sunday procession



Decoration of the church for Palm Sunday

CHRISM MASS

Archbishop Liborius Nashenda concelebrated the Chrism Mass on Tuesday 12th April 2022, with most of the priests from all the Parishes in the entire Archdiocese, as a manifestation of the communion with their Bishop. During this

Mass, the Priests renewed their priestly vows in front of the Archbishop and the entire congregation. Also, during this Mass, the Archbishop consecrated the Chrism and blessed the Oil of Catechumens and the Oil of the Sick.

Saint James bears witness to the use of the **Oil of the Sick**. It offers the sick a remedy for infirmity of body and soul, so that they can bravely endure and fight against evils and obtain pardon for sins.

The Oil of Catechumens extends the effect of the baptismal exorcisms. It strengthens the candidate with the power to renounce the devil and sin before they go to the font of life for rebirth.

Sacred Chrism shows that through Baptism, Christians are incorporated into the Paschal Mystery of Christ. Dying, being buried and rising with him, they share in his kingly and prophetic Priesthood. Through Confirmation they are given the spiritual anointing of the Holy Spirit.



Sister presenting the oil of the sick to the Archbishop for blessing



Parishioner presenting the oil of the Catechumens for blessing



Deacon present the oil of the Chrism to the Archbishop for blessing

After the Chrism Mass, the Archbishop hosted a dinner for all the religious and laity who had come for that Mass.

HOLY THURSDAY

Holy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper, when Jesus instituted the Sacraments of Eucharist and Priesthood. During that Mass the Archbishop, who was the main celebrant, washed the feet of twelve men in enactment of Jesus washing the feet of his twelve Apostles.

After Communion the Blessed Sacrament was transferred to a side Altar, to give way to the Holy Cross, which is the point of focus the next day, on Good Friday.

Below are scenes of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after it was transferred to the side Altar.



GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday is the most sombre day in the Liturgical Calendar of the Catholic Church, when we commemorate Jesus' arrest, trial, crucifixion, death and burial. It is a day of fasting and no Mass is said on this day. Communion is only by way of hosts that were consecrated the previous day, on Holy Thursday. Church bells are silent, and the Altar is left bare. The solemn, muted, sombre mood is observed until Easter Vigil, the next day.

In the morning, members from all Parishes in the Deanery assembled for the Stations of the Cross at Dobra, before attending at their respective parishes the culmination of Good Friday commemoration at 3 pm, the time Jesus is believed to have died.

Below are some scenes of the Stations of the Cross up the hill at Dobra.



HOLY SATURDAY

On Holy Saturday we commemorate the day Jesus spent in the grave, meditating on his Passion and awaiting in anticipation his Resurrection. No Mass or any other Sacrament may be administered on this day, apart from Confession and Viaticum.

The Easter Vigil celebration began at 19:00 with the blessing of the fire and preparation of the Paschal Candle. Then, there was a solemn entry into the church where the lights were off and the only light was that of the Easter Candle, to symbolise Christ coming to redeem the dark sinful world.

Below are some scenes of the Easter Vigil ceremony.





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