

### **The Easter Cycle has this shape:**

**Lent** begins on Ash Wednesday, this year that was on Feb. 10. Lent lasts for forty days, and includes 5 Sundays.

**Palm/Passion Sunday** (the Sunday after the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent) begins **Passiontide, or Holy Week**. This begins on Sunday, March 20.

**Easter** falls on March 27 this year. The Easter season lasts for 7 weeks, right up until the day of **Pentecost**.

**Lent** means “spring.” It is a season for faithful Christians to prepare for Easter – to make ready to hear once again the story of Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem, his passion, death and resurrection. Traditionally, Lent lasts for Forty days, though if you count them, you’ll find it’s more than that. That’s because in most Western traditions, Sundays aren’t counted. They’re considered “little Easters” – or festivals within the Lenten season.

Many Christians choose to observe Lent with some sort of practice – either giving up a luxury they normally enjoy, or by taking on a practice of prayer or almsgiving. It is up to each individual to choose what is most meaningful for their Lenten practice. Traditionally, Lent is a time for prayer, penance, repentance, almsgiving and self-denial.

Some Christians choose Lent as a time for special reading, either of scripture or a spiritual book to guide them on their intentional Lenten journey.



### **Palm/Passion Sunday** (March 20)

This is a “moveable feast” (which means the date can change according to the year) that falls on the Sunday before Easter. It commemorates Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem, an event that is mentioned in all of the gospels. Traditionally, the service on this Sunday includes the reading of this story, as well as the blessing and distribution of palm branches or palm-crosses, and many traditional hymns.

As “Passion Sunday”, the story of Jesus’ passion, from his arrest to his crucifixion, is also read, to prepare churchgoers for the coming week of special observances.

### **Holy Week** (March 20 - 26)

#### **Monday – Wednesday** (March 21- 23)

These days at the beginning of the week do not have traditional names, but are often observed as days of meditation and prayer.

#### **Maundy Thursday** (March 24)

This is the Holy Day that falls on the Thursday before Easter, commemorating the Last Supper of Jesus with his Apostles. In the Maundy Thursday service, often there is a ceremony of foot washing, in remembrance of Jesus’ act of washing his

friends’ feet. The church sanctuary is traditionally stripped of ornament at this service, in preparation for the solemn days to follow. Some churchgoers participate in all-night vigils on this night, praying before a side-altar where the holy sacrament is placed in reserve until Easter.

#### **Good Friday** (March 25)

The word “good” comes from an early use of the word, meaning “holy”. This solemn day commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus at Calvary. It is rare for a Eucharist to be celebrated on this day, though in some churches, a communion is offered from reserved sacrament. Some Christians walk and pray the Stations of the Cross on this day, or follow similar liturgies of penitence and prayer. There is no singing on this day.

#### **Holy Saturday** (March 26)

Until the sun has set, this day remains one of mourning and solemn prayer. But after 6 p.m., many churches hold an Easter Vigil service, which marks the beginning of the Easter season. The liturgy involves the lighting of “the new fire”, preparation of the Paschal candle for the coming year, and often, Baptisms are performed on this day.

#### **Easter Sunday** (March 27)

According to the Holy Gospels, Jesus rose from the dead on the third day after his crucifixion. This is the celebration of his resurrection, and our salvation. This day is the central feast of our liturgical year. We celebrate with music, exuberant prayers, a re-decorated sanctuary, flowers, light and joy.

## Holy Week and Easter Services 2016

### **Palm/Passion Sunday:** (March 20)

- BAS Eucharist 9.30 St. Peter & St. Thomas, Weymouth N.
- BAS Eucharist 11.15 Trinity Digby

### **Mon.-Wed.** (March 21-23)

- *\*\*New this year\*\**
- Wednesday, March 23 - An "Instructed Eucharist" (learn why we do what we do) at St. Peter & St. Thomas, Weymouth, 4 p.m.
- Mon., Tues. and Wed. - 7 p.m. Eucharist (no music) – Trinity Digby

### **Maundy Thursday** (March 24)

*foot-washing at Trinity.*

- *\*\*Stripping of the Altar at both churches, 4 p.m Eucharist. - St. Peter & St. Thomas*
- 7 p.m Eucharist. – Trinity Digby

### **Good Friday** (March 25)

- 10 a.m. Good Friday service – Trinity Digby
- 4 p.m. Good Friday service - St. Peter & St. Thomas

### **Holy Saturday** (March 26)

- Day of rest and prayer

### **Easter Sunday** (March 27)

- 7 a.m. Ecumenical Waterfront Sunrise service at Digby bandstand
- 9.30 a.m. BAS Eucharist St. Peter & St. Thomas, Weymouth N
- 11.15 a.m. BAS Eucharist Trinity Digby (with Easter treats for all!)

Anglican Parish of Digby/Weymouth  
109 Queen St., P.O.Box 1433  
Digby, NS. B0V 1A0

*Church of the Nativity – Sandy Cove  
St. Matthew – Weymouth Falls  
St. Peter & St. Thomas – Weymouth  
Trinity – Digby*



**Diocesan Bishop:**  
**The Right Reverend Ron Cutler**

**Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada:**  
**The Most Reverend Fred J. Hiltz**

**Anglican Parish of Digby/Weymouth:**  
**Rev. Mel Malton**

#### **Office Hours:**

**Digby:** Wednesdays: 9am - noon

**Weymouth:** Fridays: 11am -3pm

Parish office: Tel. #902-245-6744

Parish E-mail: ang-pdw@ns.aliantzinc.ca

Parish Web: [www.anglicanpdw.ca/](http://www.anglicanpdw.ca/)

Facebook: Anglican Parish of Digby-Weymouth



## **Easter is coming!**

**F**or countless centuries, people seeking God have divided time into special seasons for worship.

Both ancient and modern religions follow universal cycles of human experience in patterns for spiritual living. The regular rotation of nature's seasons inspires the cycle: birth, life, growth, death, then on to new life again. This is the cycle or season of Easter.

Back in December, we celebrated the coming of the light into the darkness of the world with the Nativity of our Lord Jesus, or Christmas.

What followed were the 12 days of the Christmas celebration, ending in the Epiphany, to mark the visit of the Wise Men to Jesus and the flight of the Holy Family into Egypt. After Epiphany, came Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent – the season of preparation for Easter.