

ST. ANDREWS MAR THOMA CHURCH LOS ANGELES



APRIL 2026 - PARISH BULLETIN

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."- 1st Peter 1:3

Message from our Vicar



Dear Beloved Members in Christ,

Passion Week is not merely a time to remember the suffering of Christ; it is an invitation to *experience the Cross* in a deeper and more personal way. As we journey from Palm Sunday to the empty tomb, we are not simply called to imitate Jesus from a distance, but to *follow Him closely and participate in His life, suffering, death, and resurrection*. In the Gospel of John, Jesus reminds us that unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit (John 12:24). This is the heart of Passion Week - a call to die to our selfishness, pride, and indifference, so that new life may emerge within us and through us.

God sent His Son not only to save individuals but to transform the whole world into the **Kingdom of God**- a kingdom marked by love, justice, mercy, and peace. Therefore, Passion Week is not just about reflection; it is about *transformation*. It challenges us to ask: How can we become instruments of God's Kingdom in our homes, churches, and communities? To walk with Christ during this sacred week means to carry the cross in our daily lives - to stand for truth, to love sacrificially, to forgive generously, and to serve humbly. In doing so, we participate in Christ's redemptive work in the world. As we enter this holy season, may we open our hearts to this divine invitation - not only to remember the Cross, but to be transformed by it, and to become agents of transformation in the world around us.

**Let this Passion Week lead us from remembrance to participation,
from participation to transformation,
and from transformation to the living reality of God's Kingdom.**

With prayers and blessings,

In Christ's service,

With Prayers – Rev Thomas Baby



Specialty of April: April is a transitional month known for spring blooms in the Northern Hemisphere (and autumn in the Southern), characterized by "April showers," the diamond birthstone (symbolizes fearlessness and faithfulness), and daisies (symbolizes purity).

It is heavily marked by environmentalism (Earth Month/Day), national awareness campaigns (Autism, Stress, Military Child), and major religious holidays like Easter and Passover. April is also traditionally dedicated to the Holy Spirit and the Holy Eucharist.