

HOLY WEEK IN ASTORGA

The programme that you have in your hands conveys the work of all the brotherhoods of this city throughout the year, a tradition that has come down to us through the ages. Holy Week in Astorga goes back to medieval times when the brotherhoods were organized by guilds or trade associations, which were in essence, Christian voluntary organizations with charitable purposes dedicated to their own devotions.

The idea of promoting the Holy Week of Astorga arises in the year 1908, in which a Board of Promotion was created. That was a shared project that included the Bishopric, the City Council, the Brotherhoods, the Chamber of Commerce and the Press, and its purpose was to revive (after the disaster of the Peninsular War of the previous Century), the popular celebrations, especially the parades, in order to attract a larger number of visitors.

The project was received with enthusiasm in the city, and that was reflected in the appearance of new brotherhoods, adding to the existing ones, like The Santa Vera Cruz y Confalón established in 1411, or Nuestro Padre Jesús Nazareno y María Santísima de la Soledad established in 1674. A new Archicofradía de Nuestra Señora de los Dolores, was created in 1911 and the Hermandad de los Caballeros del Silencio de Nuestro Padre Jesús Nazareno in 1926. The Cofradía (Brotherhood) del Bendito Cristo de los Afligidos began in 1943 and the Cofradía de la Entrada de Jesús en Jerusalén in 1953. The Hermandad de la Santa Cena was formed in 1969 and more recently the Cofradía (Sisterhood) de las Damas de la Virgen de la Piedad in 1993.

The Holy Week celebrations of Astorga offer more than 15 processions, involving 48 floats carried on shoulders, and 30 liturgical functions, such as concerts and other cultural events.

With its history, artistic value, tradition and popular piety, the Holy Week celebrations in Astorga offer the visitor an unforgettable experience.

i Come, Discover!

They went up to Jerusalem Holy V



Many people went up to Jerusalem to offer sacrifices in its great Temple. And Jesus also went up to Jerusalem to turn that city into an altar for His redeeming sacrifice. A group of stubborn disciples that were reluctant to accept His redeeming plan accompanied Him, but on arriving in Jerusalem and seeing the reaction of the people, they were rubbing their hands with joy. Little could they imagine what was about to happen soon afterwards.

The triumphal entrance of Jesus in Jerusalem opens the Holy Week celebrations, which reach their highest point in the Easter Triduum. Once more, in the churches, streets and squares of this lovely city, the same happenings of that time are brought back and reenacted. On our part, we will look at Jesus the Nazarene with

compassion, and also at His sorrowful Mother and at the crucified. Each Holy Week our towns and cities make room for the "paparrones", the penitents, the music bands, the images, the banners... On each Holy Week, the air smells of roses and incense. These elements, all together, make a beautiful symphony of music and prayer, of colours and smells, of holiness and scourge.

With this greeting, I wish to invite the members of the brotherhoods, and the faithful in general, to accompany Jesus the Nazarene in the most tragic and meaningful moments of His life. He is our Lord, but also our friend, and one does not abandone his friend sepecially when they are going through difficult times. As good christians, we certainly want to accompany Him in order to know Him better, to love Him more and to follow Him more closely.

Jesus was, no doubt, a man with a happy attitude, founded in the communion with His Father. But He also lived with the special joy of the communion and the encounter with His brothers. At two particular moments of the Holy Week this joy becomes present in a special was Palm Sunday and the Last Supper. Unfortunately, however, this joy turned into sadness because the treason became apparent in the Olive Garden. Jesus had always shown His disciples closeness and love and He had never abandoned them. However, as His final day gets near and He tries to ask them to accompany Him in His prayer, He finds that they are asleep and when He is arrested, they simply disappear, leaving Him alone. To this cowardly treason, one can add the unjust decision of Pilate, the superficial attitude of Herod and the ingratitude of the people. How sorry we must feel for Jesus who, deeply affected by this chain of unfortunate events, exclaims: "Sadnessi skilling me"!

To the sadness of treason, we must add the pain of the passion suffered in his body, after being whipped, loaded with a cross, tortured along the way and nailed. Let us also accompany Jesus in His Passion, so that we are comforted and cured by His wounds. As we look at His, ours become smaller and unimportant and so are our complaints. And, anyway, contemplating the crucified, we will hear the call to accompany those of our brothers with whom Christ is still suffering, as the passion of Christ is still alive nowadays on each person that suffers.

Therefore, because the passion of Christ fills all the weeks of the year, let us accompany Him from this very moment, changing treason to fidelity, ill-treatment to tenderness, selfishness to love. May God bless you all.



SUNDAY, March 10

17:00 29th Holy Week Music Bands Contest "City of Astorga", in "Plaza Mayor", with participation of the Bands of Astorga, Salamanca, Nava del Rey, Ferrol and Valladolid. It will be broadcast as a special programme on Channel 8 of CyL TV.

THURSDAY, March 14

"Let the Church, in association with Mary in the Passion of Christ, participate in His resurrection"

20:00 Start of the Solemn Novena dedicated to "Our Lady of the Sorrows", at "Iglesia de San Bartolomé", organized by its Brotherhood.

FRIDAY, March 15

"Illuminate, oh Lord, the hearts of Thy faithful, purified by the penitence of Lent"

21:00 Traditional "Way of the Cross" along the streets of "Puerta de Rey" neighbourhood. Organizes by "the Royal Brotherhood of Our Father Jesus the Nazarene and Our Lady of Loneliness".

SATURDAY, March 16

"Let us always live in the same love that moved Thy Son to surrender to death for the salvation of the world"

77:30 **Special Procession** to celebrate the 350th Anniversary of the foundation of the Royal Brotherhood of Our Father Jesus the Nazarene and Our Lady of Loneliness. After leaving the Chapel of the Brotherhood it will stop at different points along the way, arriving at the Cathedral to be present at the Proclamation of the Holy Week, which will be broadcast live on Channel 8 León, CyL TV.



20:00 Proclamation of the 2024 Holy Week in Astorga´s Cathedral, delivered by Most Reverend Jesus Fernández González, Bishop of our Diocese. There will follow a musical performance of violin, double bass and piano. The ceremony will be broadcast as a special programme by Channel 8 Leon, CyL TV

SUNDAY, 17 March

"Let us receive with joy the salvation that Thou grant us and manifest it in our own life"

19:00 Traditional Holy Week concert at Astorga´s Cathedral by our local Choir "Excelsior" and La Bañeza´s "Millennial Holy Saviour Choir".

FRIDAY OF SORROWS, March 22

"Let Thy love and Thy kindness deliver us from the power of evil to which our weakness has carried us"



22:00 Processional Way of the Cross, organized by the "Sisterhood of Ladies of The Virgen of Piety". Starts at the Sanctuary of "Virgen de Fátima".

• Recommended place of interest: "Plaza de la Semana Santa", where a prayer and some Maundy Thursday devotions will take place.

PASSION SATURDAY, March 23

"Look at Thy chosen with love and lend your protecting hand to the christened ones"

18:00 Holy Week Concert, by the Municipal Band of Astorga at the Gullon Theatre, for the benefit of the Spanish Cancer Society. Ticket sales at QUATRO's and CIBERASTOR shop. Price: 5 Euros.





† 21:00 Processional transfer of the ECCE-HOMO of Valdeviejas from His Chapel to the Headquarters of the Brotherhood of "Knights of Silence of Our Father Jesus the Nazarene"

• Recommended place of interest: A sacred song in flamenco style will be sung beside the bank of river Jerga by the Jimenez family.



PALM SUNDAY IN THE PASSION OF THE LORD, March 24

"Oh Lord, let the teachings of Thy Passion serve as testimony for us"



- ## 9:30 The float of "La Borriquilla" leaves "Iglesia de San Pedro" in Rectivia towards "Plaza Mayor", accompanied by the Brotherhood of "The Entrance of Jesus in Jerusalem" known as "Las Palmas". It will be broadcast live by Channel 8 Leon, CyL TV.
- Recommended place of interest: "Plaza Mayor", where the Blessing of the Palms will take place.

11:15 Solemn blessing of palms and olive branches by the Bishop, accompanied by the local Authorities, the clergy and the faithful.

- **12:30 PALM SUNDAY's Seasonal Mass** at the Cathedral, presided over by Bishop Jesús Fernández González. Reading of "The Passion according to St. Mark".
- Recommended place of interest: "Plaza de la Catedral", once the Eucharist is over and the Procession gets on its way towards "Iglesia de San Pedro" in Rectivia.



13:00 Call to "The Braceros". Organized by the Brotherhood of the "Holy True Cross and Banner". A traditional walk that leaves the Brotherhood's Chapel and follows the route of the Procession of the Holy Burial, summoning its Brothers and "Braceros" along the way to the council Headquarters.



17:30 At "Iglesia de San Bartolomé", praying of the Rosary to Our Lady of Sorrows, with sacred music interpreted by "Schola Gregoriana" of Astorga.

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• Recommended places of interest: Inside the Church with the singing of "The Sorrowful Crown" by "Schola Gregoriana" and "Plaza de San Bartolomé" at the end of the Procession with the singing of the "Salve Regina".

22:00 Processional transfer of the float "Jesus tied to the Column". Organized by the Brotherhoods of the "Holy True Cross and Banner" and "St. Tirso, St. Christopher and Jesús tied to the Column" of the neighboring village of Piedralba, where the Procession starts, heading for Astorga. The ancestral "Way of the Cross" will be sung, with bonfires marking the stops along the way.

• Recommended places: "Iglesia de Piedralba", where the old popular song of the "Five Wounds" is sung, and the stop at "Fuentencalada", where the

local Authorities, as well as Representatives of other Brotherhoods and music accompaniment join in. Also the final stop at the "Iglesia de los "PP. Redentoristas", where the float is delivered by the retinue and the Annual Actis signed by the Authorities.



HOLY MONDAY March 25

"Raise our weak hope with the strengh of the Passion of Thy Son"

† 17:00 Exposure and Candle Light Vigil, as well as Adoration of the "Christ of Love and Forgiveness", at "Iglesia de San Pedro", in Rectivía. Organized by the "Brotherhood of the Entrance of Jesus in Jerusalem". The Church will be open for the veneration of Christ until 20:00.

22:00 Procession of the "Ladies of the Virgin of Piety", from the

Sanctuary of "Virgen de Fátima". The Procession concludes with the song to the "Virgin of Mercy" sung by "Schola Gregoriana" of Astorga.

• Place of interest: The Square in front of the Sanctuary, as the Procession returns and the song to the Holy Mary is sung.



HOLY TUESDAY March 25

"Let us take part so intensely in the celebration of the Passion of the Lord, that we may reach His forgiveness"

From 11:00 to 14:00 and from 16:00 to 17:00, Exposure, Candle Light Vigil and Adoration of the Christ of Love and Forgiveness at "Iglesia de San Pedro" in Rectivia. Organized by the "Brotherhood of the Entrance of Jesus in Jerusalem".

Procession of the Way of the Cross 🎻 🍍 🥉 💠 🕇 🌘 🍴 🎗 🥮

18:15 From "Iglesia de San Pedro" in Rectivía.

18:30 From "Iglesia de Puerta de Rey".

19:00 From "Iglesia de San Andrés", the Chapel of the "Vera Cruz", "Santuario de Fátima" and "Iglesia de San Bartolomé", the various Brotherhoods come simultaneously to gather at 19:30 at "Plaza Mayor", and from there, head for the Cathedral, summoning the faithful to the prayer of the "Stations of the Cross", which will be broadcast live by Channel 8 Leon CyL TV.





21:00 Ensemble of all Brotherhoods for the prayer of "The Way of the Cross", at the Cathedral, led by the Dean, Rev. Francisco Javier Gay Alcain.



• Recommended places: "Plaza Mayor" for the ensemble of all Brotherhoods and then inside the Cathedral. At the end of the service, the Brotherhoods will return to their Churches and Headquarters. In the case of the Procession of the Brotherhood of Rectivía, as it reaches its Church, Ángel Rodríguez Villacorta will interpret the "Cantata to the Christ of Love and Forgiveness", while the float is brought into the Church.

HOLY WEDNESDAY March 27

"Our salvation, oh Lord, is to love Thee; may Thou grant us the abundance of Thy gifts"

11:00 Chrism Mass, in the Cathedral, presided over by most Reverend Jesús Fernández González, Bishop of Astorga, where the Holy Chrism and the oils are blessed for the administration of the Sacraments throughout the Diocese.





18:30 "From the Cross". Representacion of "The Way of the Cross". From "Parroquia de Rectivía" we are invited to partake of these moments of prayer and reflection over the crosses we encounter nowadays in our daily life and to discover the light, even in difficult situations, as long as we are predisposed to look.



21:45 "Blessing of the loaves", This ceremony is organized by the "Brotherhood of the Last Supper" at "Parroquia de San Bartolomé", as an introduction to the Procession.

22:00 "Last Supper" Procession, organized by the above mentioned Brotherhood.

• Recommended place of interest: "Plaza de San Bartolomé" as the Procession returns and the floats are introduced into the Chapel while the music is playing.

HOLY THURSDAY, THE LAST SUPPER, March 28

"Grant the Christian Community, which you acquired on account of Thy Son's precious blood, that they may receive through the Eucharist the fruits of the Passion and Resurrection of Christ"

11:45 From "Plaza de San Roque" the crier of the "Blessed Christ of the Grieving" Brotherhood leaves towards their Chapter to ask their Senior Brother for permission to initiate, with the Bishop's consent, the Holy Week Proclamation on horseback, summoning the faithful to the "Sermon of the Seven Words" and the Procession of the "Blessed Christ of the Grieving", with a text written by our former Mayor, Juan José Alonso Perandones.





• Recommended places of interest: "Plaza de San Roque", Brotherhood Chapter, "Iglesia de San Andrés", "Convento de las "MM. Redentoristas", Head Office of "Junta Pro Fomento" by "ELSA" building, Monument to the "Cofrade", Cathedral, Seminary, Town Hall and then, Brotherhood Quarters.

17:00 Mass of the Lord´s Last Supper, presided over by Most Reverend Jesús Fernández González, Bishop of Astorga, at the Cathedral. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament before the Monument.

† 19:00 Delivery of the Palm to St. John, "The Handsome" in the Chapel of the Brotherhood of the "Santa Vera Cruz y Confalón". Note: The Board of Management of the Brotherhood of the "Holy True Cross and Banner" greets the Senior Brother of the Brotherhood of "The Entrance of Jesus in Jerusalem" and to its own Board of Management, to hand over its Palm to the image of St. John "The Handsome", which will be carried on the evening of Good Friday in the Solemn and Immemorial Procession of the Holy Burial. Afterwards, the Brotherhood's minute book will be signed.

20:30 Holy Hour in the Cathedral, organized by the Chapter of the Catedral and the Association for the Nightly Adoration. The Service will be directed by Rev. Ricardo Fuertes Vega, Canon of the Cathedral.

† 21:45 As a preparation for the Procession, the Brotherhood of the "Knights of Silence of our Father Jesus the Nazarene" will renew its **Vow of Silence**, at "Iglesia de San Bartolomé". The Vow will be taken by all its members behind closed doors.

† 22:00 Procession of Silence, from "Iglesia de San Bartolomé" with the image of the Nazarene. There will be a stop for prayer and Silence at "Plaza de la Semana Santa", where the Choir "City of Astorga – Excelsior" will interpret motets to the Nazarene and to the Ecce-Homo.



• Recommended places: "Plaza de la Semana Santa" during Prayers and Silence and "Plaza de San Bartolomé" on departure and arrival of the Procession.





GOOD FRIDAY. March 29

"Look, oh Lord of kindness, at Thy Holy Family, for whom Jesus Christ accepted the torment of the cross, giving Himself up to His own enemies"

1:00 Vow of Silence by the members of the Brotherhood of the "Holy True Cross and Banner". This act, as well as that of the "Nailing to the Cross", takes place behind closed doors.

🍍 **1:15 Silent Penitential Procession of the Nailing**. Organized by the



above mentioned Brotherhood and the participation of the "Five Wounds" Brotherhood. It will leave its Chapel carrying the articulated Recumbent Christ and heading for "Capilla de San Esteban", where the act of the Nailing to the Cross will take place. At the end of the Procession, the traditional Holy

Week's bun will be distributed to all the participating brothers.

• Recommended places to watch: "Jardin de la Sinagoga" and "Paseo de la Muralla" The Procession moves along in silence, which is only broken by the singing of the ancestral chant "People of Mine" and the sounds of muffled drums and rattles.

8:30 Procession of the Encounter. It leaves "Iglesia de Puerta de Rey" and it is organized by the "Royal Brotherhood of Our Father Jesus the Nazarene and Holy Mary of Loneliness".

Week



10:15 Ceremony of the Encounter of Jesus the Nazarene, as He is on His way to be crucified, and His mother, the Sorrowful Virgen, at "Plaza Mayor". The Encounter will be preceded by the traditional run of "San Juanín".

• Recommended place to watch: "Plaza Mayor" where the whole performance takes place.



10:30 Lauds in the Cathedral

• 11:15 Procession of the "Blessed Christ of the Grieving", Leaves "Iglesia de San Andrés" heading for the Cathedral, accompanied by the members of its Brotherhood and other devouts.

will take place.

Recommended places of interest: The road leading up into the City ("Postigo"), the entrance to the Atrium of the Cathedral, the Sermon, the proximities of the "Escuela de Idiomas", where there will be a musical performance by "Schola Gregoriana" dedicated to the "Blessed Christ of the Grieving" and finally, "Postigo" Street, as the Procession slowly moves downhill towards "Iglesia de San Andrés".







17:00 Celebration of the Passion of the Lord, in the Cathedral, presided over by Most Reverend Jesús Fernández González, Bishop of Astorga. This ceremony includes the Universal Prayer and the Adoration of the Holy Cross

18:30 Solemn and Immemorial Processión of the Holy Burial, organized by the Brotherhood of the "Holy True Cross and Banner".

19:30 Act of the Unnailing of the Body of the Lord in "Plaza Eduardo de Castro". It will be broadcast as a special programme by Channel 8 León CyL TV.

Castro". It will be broadcast as a special programme by Channel 8 León CyL TV.

① Places of interest: "Plaza Eduardo de Castro", to watch the act of the unnailing and the rendering of the songs "Death is Not the End" and "People of Mine"; also "Lights Out" and performance of "Schola Gregoriana" of Astorga. Then at "Plaza de San Francisco" there will be a

rendering of the traditional "Salve", dedicated to the "Virgen of Loneliness", and the popular genuflexion of St. John.

22:30 Procession of "Our Lady of Loneliness", from "Iglesia de Puerta de Rey", organized by "The Royal Brotherhood of Our Father Jesus the Nazarene



and Holy Mary of Loneliness", with a stop at the Convent of "Santi Spiritus", where the nuns will intone the traditional motet. The Procession, then, continues towards the Chapter of the Brotherhood, where the traditional "Salve" will be sung. There will also be a Farewell Prayer and the solemn entrance of the "Holy Mary" float into the church.

• Recommended place of interest: Convent of "Santi Spiritus", where the nuns will sing a motet.





HOLY SATURDAY, March 30

"We ask Thou to grant the faithful, buried with Christ on account of their baptism, that they may resurrect also with Him for eternal life"

10:30 Lauds in the Cathedral.

22:00 Great Easter Vigil at the Cathedral, culminating point of the Liturgical Year. Presided over by Most Reverend Jesus Fernández González, Bishop of Astorga.





EASTER SUNDAY, March 31

"Grant the ones who celebrate the solemnity of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, that they may be renovated by Thy spirit and resurrect in the Kingdom of Light and Life"

11:15 Jubilant Procession of the Resurrected, organized by the "Brotherhood of the Holy True Cross and Banner", which will leave its Chapel and head for the Cathedral, to be present in the Solemn Concelebrated Pascual Eucharist.

12:00 Solemn Concelebrated Pascual Eucharist presided over by Most Reverend Jesús Fernández González, Bishop of Astorga. It will be attended by the local Authorities, as well as representatives of all the Brotherhoods. There will also be a performance by the Choir "City of Astorga-Excelsior".





🎁 13:00 The Mass will end up with the Papal Blessing and the

Congratulations to the "Virgen of Beautiful Love" from the nearby "Iglesia de Santa Marta". Afterwards, the Virgen and the Resurrected will meet, and a distribution of Aleluyas will be carried out by the "Brotherhood of The Holy True Cross and Banner".

The Procession will return to The Brotherhood's Chapel, where an Easter Egg will be given to each of the children that has participated in the Procession.

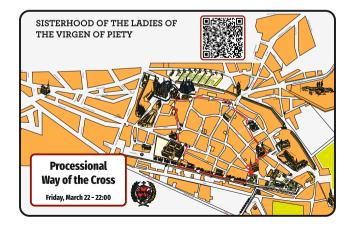


• Recommended place of interest: Atrium of the Cathedral. Encounter of the Resurrected and the "Virgen of Beautiful love".

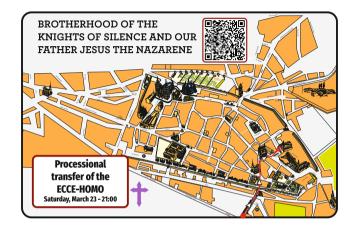


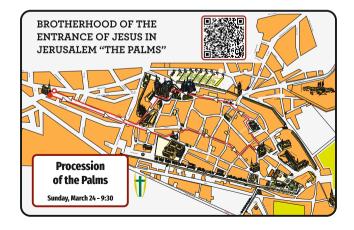






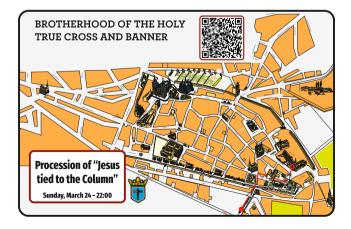




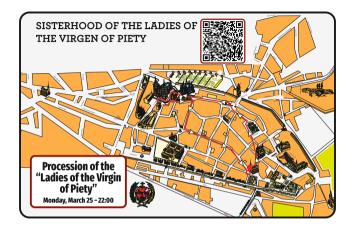


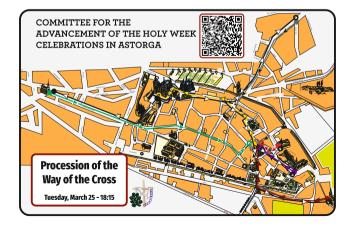






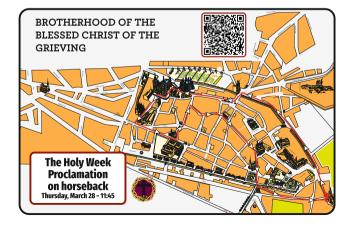




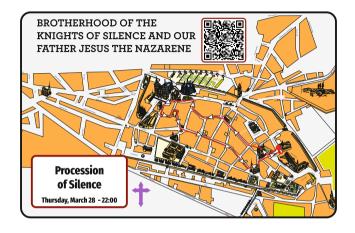


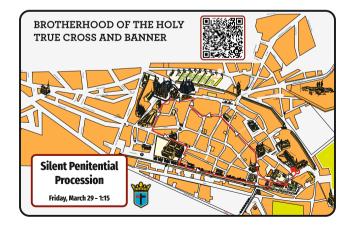








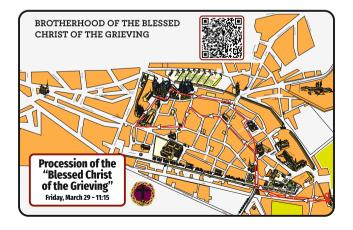




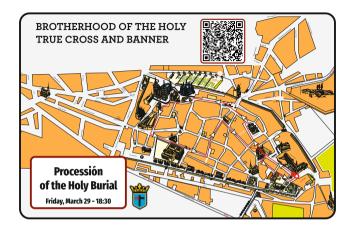
Itineraries 2024

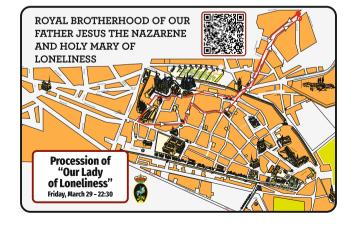












Itineraries 2024







Brotherhood of the Holy True Cross and Banner.



Royal Brotherhood of our Father Jesus the Nazarene and Holy Mary of Loneliness



Arch-Brotherhood of Our Lady of Sorrows



Brotherhood of the Knights of Silence and Our Father Jesus the Nazarene



Brotherhood of the Blessed Christ of the Grieving



Brotherhood of the Entrance of Jesus in Jerusalem "The Palms"



Brotherhood of the Last Supper



Sisterhood of the Ladies of the Virgen of Piety



Time Table of the Lityrgical acts

	Holy Thursday	Good Friday	Holy Saturday
Cathedral	17:00 h.	17:00 h.	22:00 h.
Santa Marta	17:15 h.	17:15 h.	22:15 h.
San Bartolomé	18:00 h.	17:30 h.	22:30 h.
San Andrés	19:00 h.		19:30 h.
San Pedro de Rectivía	17:30 h.		22:30 h.
Puerta de Rey	18:00 h.	17:00 h.	23:00 h.
Perpetuo Socorro	17:30 h.	17:30 h.	21:00 h.
In the Catedral, Holy Thursday and Good Friday: Lauds at 10:30 a.m.			



Ongoing Processions in Astorga's Holy week



EPHEMERISES

260 years of the Urn donated by the Marquis of Astorga

350 years of the foundation of the Royal Brotherhood of Our Father Jesus the Nazarene and Holy Mary of Loneliness.

444 years of the Twinning and Union between the Banner of the "Holy True Cross Brotherhood", which is displayed in the Processions, and its counterpart of Rome.

NOTAS

You are advised to visit the website of the "Junta Profomento" to confirm last minute changes:

https://semanasanta-astorga.com



On the maps of the routes the Processions follow, there is a QR as a link to get additional information.

The quotations have been taken from the prayers of the Mass of each day.

The drawing shown on the poster represents the image of the "Bless Christ of the Grieving" and it was created by Javier Mújica Seco, inspired on a photograph of the 1960's.

Editor: Board of Promotion of the Holy Week Celebrations (with ecclesiastical licence).

Photos: Macgofer y Ciber@stor.

Design and layout: Ciber@stor.

Map of Astorga: Toño.

Translated by Agustin J. Álvarez











