

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2022



# Palm Sunday

Today, we have two Gospel readings.

The first is the Gospel of the Palms and comes from St Luke's Gospel, chapter 19, verses 28-40. Listen to this being read near the beginning of our service. It tells the story of what happened on Palm Sunday.

For younger children:

Can you listen to the story?

Some pictures for you to colour of Jesus riding on the donkey:





If you are at our service in the cathedral, you will find some other Holy Week activities on your table.

For older children:

🙄 Something to think about:

The crowd who went out to meet Jesus, waving branches of palm trees and shouting, were welcoming Jesus to Jerusalem as a king. As far as they were concerned, that day, they were hailing the King of Israel with words of triumph, victory and celebration. Jesus, however, knew differently. By choosing to ride into Jerusalem on a young donkey, rather than a conquering hero's warhorse, Jesus was fulfilling prophecy and showing that he had come to bring peace.

Sadly, the crowd didn't get it. Despite being aware of the words of the prophet Zechariah about the expected Messiah riding on the foal of a donkey (Zechariah 9:9), this was not what they expected and, within days, the same crowds were demanding Jesus be executed. Jesus was not the sort of king the crowd wanted. He was a servant king and the crown for this king would be a crown of thorns.



Our second Gospel reading today is also from St Luke's Gospel and tells part of the story of Jesus's betrayal and death. This week is Holy Week, when we remember these events. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. As we journey together through this week, we see the situation for Jesus and his companions changing fast. We can follow the daily events by reading the gospel story and, if we can, it is good to follow the whole story of Holy Week, so that we can fully celebrate the joy of Easter.

By Maundy Thursday, we see more clearly the sort of king Jesus knew himself to be. The name "Maundy" comes from the Latin word 'Mandatum', meaning 'commandment'. In John's Gospel (chapter 13, verses 1-20) we read how Jesus washed his disciples' feet (something that would normally be done by a servant) and gave them a 'new commandment'. Jesus said, "A new commandment I give you, that you love one another as I have loved you. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another". Jesus was a "Servant King" and our final hymn today is a beautiful song which reminds us of this.

Our Maundy Thursday celebration is very poignant, as we recall these events, together with Jesus's command to "Do this in remembrance of me", as he shared the Passover meal with his followers. On this night, Jesus gave us the sacrament of the Eucharist, Holy Communion, or Lord's Supper, which is so important in our lives as Christians.



**Jesus said to his disciples.  
"Do this in remembrance of me."**

On Good Friday, we find Jesus wearing the crown of thorns, as he is taunted and tortured, before being crucified.



### A prayer for Holy Week:

Dear God, thank you that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey to show everyone your love and peace. Help us during this Holy Week to grow closer to Jesus day by day. Amen.

 You might also like to use this famous prayer of St Richard of Chichester:

Thanks be to you, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
for all the benefits which you have given us,  
for all the pains and insults which you have borne for us.  
Most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother,  
may we know you more clearly,  
love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly,  
day by day.  
Amen.

More activities below and, if you are with us in the cathedral, there are things to make and take home on your table





DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.