

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2023

# The Sixth Sunday of Lent



Today, we have two Gospel readings. The first – the Gospel of the Palms – comes from St Matthew's Gospel, chapter 21, verses 1-11 and tells the story of what happened on Palm Sunday.

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.



**Hosanna!**

Do you know the meaning of this word that the crowd were shouting?

The word 'Hosanna' in Hebrew means 'save us!' On Palm Sunday the crowd welcomed Jesus as their Messiah, God's anointed one, whom they were expecting to be their saviour. How do you think Jesus was different from their expectations?

## Holy Week

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. As we journey together through this week, we see, in the gospels, the rapidly evolving situation for Jesus and his companions and we can follow the daily events through reading the gospels and through our daily services, which you can find online via the cathedral website.

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 will all people know that you are my disciples, if you love one another". 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 and gave us the sacrament of the Eucharist, Holy Communion, or Lord's Supper.



**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.

The second Gospel reading today is Matthew 26:14 - 27:66, which tells part of the story of Good Friday.

If we can, it is good to follow the whole story of Holy Week, to journey with Jesus through these events, so that we can fully celebrate the joy of Easter.

During this week, you might like to read Mark's gospel, chapters 14 and 15.

# Guide to Holy Week



## Palm Sunday

Sunday before Easter. Celebration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Observed with palm branches, parades, and celebration.



## Maundy Thursday

Thursday before Easter. Commemorates the Last Supper. Often observed with foot washing, stripping of the altar, and overnight prayer vigil to keep watch with Jesus in the garden.



## Good Friday

Friday before Easter. Most solemn day of the church year. Observes the day Jesus was crucified. Observed by praying the Stations of the Cross and three hours of silent prayer while Jesus was on the cross.



## Holy Saturday

Saturday before Easter. Observes the day Jesus was in the tomb. This is a day of somber reflection, reflecting on what we'd miss in a world without Jesus.



## Easter Sunday

Hallelujah! Christ has risen! This day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Sing hallelujahs and celebrate with great joy.



## Puzzle Sheet

Jesus travelled into Jerusalem on a colt – a baby donkey. Can you match these adult animals to their babies? The first one has been done for you.

- |          |       |         |
|----------|-------|---------|
| cat      | ..... | calf    |
| horse    | ..... | joey    |
| dog      | ..... | piglet  |
| lion     | ..... | kitten  |
| sheep    | ..... | tadpole |
| pig      | ..... | cub     |
| kangaroo | ..... | lamb    |
| cow      | ..... | foal    |
| frog     | ..... | puppy   |

Can you fit the words below into the grid? CLUE: If you are struggling begin with the shortest word.

Jesus									
donkey									
crowd									
Hosanna									
Jerusalem									
palm									
Passover									

Help Jesus find his way through the maze into Jerusalem

start here

How many palm leaves can you count on the page?

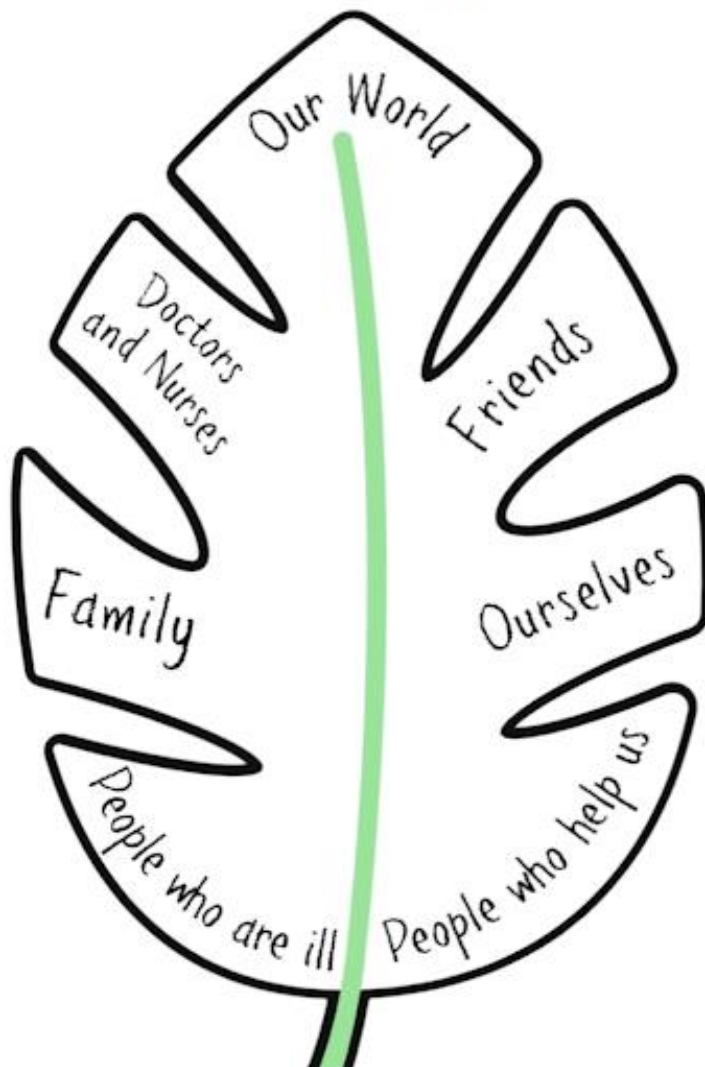
Answer: There are eleven palm leaves on the page

## A prayer for Holy Week:


Dear God, thank you for the story of Jesus riding into Jerusalem. We thank you that he came to be the saviour for everyone.


As we travel through this week, help us to draw closer to Jesus and to learn more about him. We pray for those who do not yet know Jesus as their Saviour. Help us to help them to know that Jesus came to show us your love. Amen.


## Palm Sunday Palm Leaf Prayers



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 Colour your Palm Leaf.  
You could pray for each section as you colour.

 Cut out your leaf & stick it onto a door

 Every day as you pass your leaf pray for one section



Thank You God that you always listen to our prayers. Sometimes we don't always know what is ahead of us, but like Jesus journeying through Jerusalem, may we always know you are with us. Amen

# Palm Sunday

Find the Hidden Word

Word Bank

- Jerusalem
- Disciples
- Village
- Donkey
- Master
- Jesus
- Cloaks
- People
- Road
- Hosanna
- David
- Palm
- Olives
- Glory
- Colt

O L I V E S  
O P E R A D D  
G L O R Y I I J  
N U N Z V I E O  
R G A O R S U  
A C D B D Y N U O P L  
U M A S T E R S N A I  
V F D K E E R L  
R T N Q G V B M N L  
H O S A N N A S D  
V D S L Q U P M P  
B S D F L S T P Z E A  
D I S C I P L E S L  
G H V C M O V A  
D I S C E P O P I S  
C L O A K S L P U  
P A S Q E T R M  
L N E K  
R O A D J

