



St John Boste Parish, West Durham Esh, Esh Winning, Langley Park and Ushaw Moor

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Please telephone the Chaplain if you have someone in hospital who would like a visit.



Palm Sunday and Holy Week 2020 : 5 April 2020

Last week's gospel passage mentioned the village of Bethany, two miles from Jerusalem. This was where Lazarus lived with his sisters Martha and Mary. This week we hear of Bethany again in the gospel for Palm Sunday. If you have children you may like to cut out some crosses from newspaper, read the passage below and then march around your house/ garden singing or shouting 'Hosanna!' while waving the crosses around. This word 'hosanna' is a shout of joy and praise like the roar of the crowd after your team has scored a goal. A sound of joy and celebration indeed as the people welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem. So, let's read this passage from Matthew's gospel [chapter 21, verses 1-11]. You may even want to act it out:

'When they were near Jerusalem and had come in sight of the villages of Bethphage and Bethany on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them; "Go to the village facing you, and you will immediately find a tethered donkey and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you are to say, 'The master needs them and will send them back directly.' This took place to fulfil the prophecy: Say to the daughter of Zion [Jerusalem]: Look, your king comes to you; he is humble, he rides on a donkey and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden." So, the disciples went out and did as Jesus had told them. They brought the donkey and the colt, then laid their cloaks on their backs, and he sat on them. Great crowds of people spread their cloaks on the road, while others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them in his path. The crowds who went in front of him, and those who followed were all shouting; 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heavens!' And when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil. 'Who is this?', people asked. And the crowds answered: 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee'.



And, a reflection for the adults:

- Imagine you were a passer-by, one who already knew that prophecy from the bible about a king coming in on a donkey. How do you think you might react to this scene?
- Instead of Jesus coming into Jerusalem, perhaps you could quietly invite Jesus to 'ride into your life' at this moment.
- What might it mean for you to see Jesus as your 'king', as one who is 'humble'?

Our Parish Office: The office is officially closed to all visitors but will remain open for communication by telephone or email only. Any updates will be given on the parish website: wdrcp.org

Recently deceased: Tommy Dixon (Langley Park, formerly of Ushaw College farm); Andrea-Jane Harbottle (LP)

Anniversaries this week:

St Michael's church: Elizabeth Hewitson, Gregory Paul Welsh, Innes Ewen, Phyllis Cooper, James Hogan, Anne Brennan, Elizabeth Forster, James McNaughton, Terry Kendall, Jane Dixon.

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs: Jim Sands, Cecilia McGinn, John Traynor, Andrew Webster, Ernest McKenna, Michael McDermott, Annie Robinson, Agnes Starr, Catherine Brennan.

St Joseph's church: Wayne McGowan, Ian Defty, Robert Wilkinson, Ray Stoddart, Fr Oswald Whitaker, Margaret Clough, Helen Hughes, Mary McLoughlin, John Doran.

Your memories: In a letter last week I mentioned how, when I lived in Newcastle, a local group invited older people to write down their memories from childhood. I suggested that while we are spending rather more time in our houses, we might like to write down our memories from childhood and, maybe, share these later. Some people have already mentioned to me their memory of outside toilets with newspaper hung on a string on the back of the door - and a candle burning in winter to prevent the toilet freezing! Any more memories? Try to write them down!

PALM SUNDAY

Prayer for a Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced
remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home
remember those who must choose between preserving their health
or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close,
remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips
remember those that have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market
remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbour.

Amen



Mass and prayer available online:

<https://mass-online.org/daily-holy-mass-live-online/>

- Live Masses throughout the day from around the world
- <https://us.magnificat.net/free>
- Daily readings and Morning and Evening Prayer
 - Vatican Media Live
 - Our diocesan website: rcdhn



Maundy Thursday: If you have a bible or New Testament then, on Thursday, you might like to turn to St Matthew's gospel chapter 26, verses 17-30. Everyone in your house might sit round your table.

Have a slice of bread ready on the table. Now, read the text and then, quietly, tear the bread into pieces and hand a piece to each person gathered. Or, read St John's gospel chapter 13, verses 1-15 about the washing of feet. Now, every time you wash your hands on Thursday, pray for someone you know.

Good Friday: Perhaps you have a crucifix at home. If not, draw a large cross with Jesus on it. Place your hand on Jesus' head, and pray for all suffering from mental health issues. Place your hand on Jesus' heart, and pray for all who are lonely or suffering from broken hearts. Put your hand on Jesus' hands and pray that you might seek to reach out to others. Put your hand on Jesus' feet and pray for all with physical disabilities.

A few people have offered to contact others in any way that is needed. Thank you for that. If anyone should like an occasional/ regular phone call or email please let me know and I will ask someone to get in touch with you. Don't think you are being 'weak' for needing contact. We *all* need support at this time.

Letter from Bishop Robert: read on our website.

'Church' or 'church':

A couple of weeks ago, when our bishops first said we can no longer gather together for mass, they said 'the Church is not closed'.

It is how you understand what we mean by 'church'. For many people 'the church' is primarily *a building* that we attend each week. Yet, first and foremost the 'church' is not *a building*, but rather **the people** who gather in that building. Our church buildings may be closed at present, but 'the Church' *as people* has really come into its own these past few weeks. People are reaching out to one another in a very new way. And rooting all of their activity in prayer. Our buildings may be closed, but *we are the Church!* The Church is not closed!

Gathering for prayer: Each day quite a few of us are stopping to pray together at 12 noon. Not 'together' as in the same room, but 'together' insofar as we are linked together in spirit. Do feel free to join in each day at 12, from your armchair or wherever you choose. We take the opportunity to pray for one another. Also, I am working my way through my parish address book, praying for each of you individually.

'Northern Cross': free email edition now available. Simply email: tomhoban67@gmail.com



We are the Church Together!

Remember: while we are not at church to pick up newsletters, we can still check our parish website:

wdrcp.org