

Palm Sunday Reflection

Who would have thought that a year on, we're still affected by the pandemic, and that this is our second Holy Week and Easter in this situation? The good news of course is that we can be in Church this year and that via our Zoom services we've done new things, and some old things in new ways. There is good news too in the vaccination programme, and about the care and support very many people have shown one another—something to be built on in the months to come. We are still mourning, however, multiple losses, as individuals and as a community, and that will take time to process and work through. We need to be patient with each other, and patient with ourselves.

The triumph and tragedy of Palm Sunday is worth considering in this framework, as Jesus begins his walk to the Cross—the hours dragging as it were, while the days speed on. Or better, it is the Palm Sunday / Good Friday / Easter story which frames all of our lives, together and apart.

As a reminder of this, we will bless palms online and in Church, and we will hear again (this year from Mark and John) the account of Jesus' trial, crucifixion and death. And then on Saturday, we will pause and wait, not quite ready for the resurrection, but having to imagine with the early disciples how it would be if Jesus simply remained in the tomb. Waiting, grieving and wondering have been our common lot.

Easter Day is the hope which God always provides, but we're not quite there yet!

Fr David

Codes for the Zoom worship at 10.30

These are codes for Sundays from 7 February until Easter Day, *including Holy Week*

Meeting ID: 881 6251 3403

Passcode: 337962

Telephone numbers (as previously) 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240, 0131

NEXT SUNDAY 04.04.2021 Easter Sunday

SERVICES 10.30 by Zoom, 12 noon in Church

READINGS



(OT) Acts 10. 34-43

NT 1 Corinthians 15. 1-11

Gospel John 20. 1-18

CONTACT US

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St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 28th March 2021

Palm Sunday

10.30 by Zoom (phone-in available)

12 noon Mass in Church

Here's advance notice about some Holy Week services, with full details also available on our Easter card, and online.

Mon, Tues, Wed of Holy Week: 7pm Evening worship on Zoom with Andrew Beane, AD of Exeter.

Maundy Thursday: 7pm Mass in Church, with short watch; 9pm Compline at home by Zoom

Good Friday: 9.30am Stations by Zoom, 2pm Liturgy in Church

Holy Saturday: 6pm Service of Light and Vigil by Zoom

If you would like to make a donation for **flowers on Easter Day** in memory of someone who has died, please contact Pat Metford or the clergy.



Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Isaiah 50: 4-9a

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

Philippians 2: 5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and be-

came obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Mark 11: 1-11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, ‘Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, “Why are you doing this?” just say this, “The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.” ’ They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, ‘What are you doing, untying the colt?’ They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, ‘Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!’ Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Post Communion

Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on

the cross for our salvation: give us the mind to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord and King, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

NOTICES

Community Larder The Community Larder will be collecting on **Tuesdays only** from 10am-12noon, and is allowed to continue operating during the period of lockdown. The collecting point will now be in the Church Hall. Judith Southam has **homemade chutneys and marmalade for sale**. The jars are labelled with a full list of ingredients. All proceeds will be given to the Community Larder. Please continue to be generous.

Knit and Natter *Update for March 2021*

Ian has kindly agreed to display the 15 blankets we have knitted in the Hall on **Tuesday 30th March between 10am-12noon**. The blankets are being given as Easter gifts to Parkland House. Once the ‘Rule of Six’ is in operation, we shall hope to meet in the park as last year. This looks like being after Easter when we hope the weather will be warm and dry!

Meanwhile, we continue our Zoom meetings on Thursdays 11.15am to 11.55am thanks to Vanessa. All details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

House Group. Tuesday evenings. Please contact Ian Totterdell for Zoom details.

Electoral Roll revision Carolyn Bryant is revising the roll this year in advance of the APCM. Because of the current restrictions, we will assume that folk wish to continue on the roll unless they specifically tell us otherwise. If you are not on the roll and wish to be, contact the Parish Office by email or phone, Fr David or Ian Totterdell.

Annual Meeting Sunday 16 May, arrangements to be confirmed

Do not forget to put your clocks **forward by 1 hour** on Saturday 27th March.