

HOLY WEEK



Holy Week
Daily
Reflections

Palm Sunday – Palm Crosses

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Palm Sunday when Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey.

Bible Reading for Palm Sunday - Mark 11:1-11

The week began with the crowds cheering and waving palm branches as Jesus came into Jerusalem. They were hoping he would be a new king but, to their surprise, he was riding on a donkey. He was going to be king, but not the sort of king they expected.

What did the people in the story shout?

What do you think 'Hosanna' means?

The word Hosanna in Hebrew meant 'save us' – You can find an example of it being used in Psalm 118 v 25!

Psalm 118 v 24 "This is the day that the LORD has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it"

Sometimes when life is difficult, or we are feeling sad or worried it can be hard to be glad. But every day we have things to be thankful for.

The people who were welcoming Jesus into the city recognised Jesus as their Saviour.

He was the Messiah that the people had been waiting for and they were so thankful.

Wonder moment....

Who are you thankful for?

What are you thankful for?

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Jesus arriving in Jerusalem. Thank you that you came to be a Saviour for everybody. As we prepare for Easter help us to draw close to you and learn more about who you are. We pray for those in the world who do not know you yet. Help them to recognise you as their Saviour.

Amen

Activity - In your box you will have a Palm Cross and a Luggage Tag....

Why not make a list of all the things you can be grateful for and say thank you to God for all he has provided for you and your family today, writing these on a tag....

Then attach this to your palm cross!

Holy Monday

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Mary anointing Jesus's feet with Perfume.

Bible Reading for Monday of Holy Week – John 12:1-11

In the evenings, Jesus spent time with his friends outside the city. At one meal, Mary came and poured perfume on to his feet to show how much she loved him. It was expensive perfume, and some people were angry at the waste, but Jesus said that she was preparing him for his death. The smell of the perfume filled the whole place.

By washing his feet and anointing them, Mary had given him a great gift of love and care with this simple, loving action.

Mary's perfume was very very expensive, that is why people were so shocked that she gave it to Jesus. But Mary understood how special Jesus was and how precious it was to spend time with Him.

Wonder Moment....

The smell of the perfume filled the air - What smell brings you peace and comfort?

Who is a gift to you?

Prayer

Dear God, Thank you that we are never alone because you are ALWAYS WITH US. Thank you that we can spend time with you and draw close to you. We pray for those in the world who are feeling alone at the moment that they would know that you are with them. Amen

Activity – In your Box you should have a bottle of Lavender...

Psalm 141 v 2 "Let my prayer be like incense placed before you."

With your Lavender... use this to draw the sign of the cross on your hand or pour some of the Lavender onto your wrists... This is really good at helping to stay calm and helping us when we feel anxious or worried.

Find a place that is comfortable and the least distracting. Try taking a few deep breaths; breathing in the presence of God and breathing out whatever worries from the day there may be. Allow yourself to be present with God in this moment.

Holy Tuesday

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Jesus predicting his death.

Bible Reading for Tuesday of Holy Week – John 12:20-36

Some Greek Jews ask Philip to take them to Jesus which, along with Andrew, he does.

Jesus says that His time to be glorified has arrived. A seed must die in the ground to multiply. A person who loves his life will lose his life.

Jesus told the people that grain has to fall to the ground and die to produce seeds. He was using this as a picture to help them understand that He was going to die. Jesus knew that by dying He would make a way for the sins of the world to be forgiven. The seeds He was talking about were all the people who would come to be friends of God through Jesus.

Jesus calls out, “Father glorify your name.” A voice from heaven answers Him. Some of the onlookers hear it as thunder, while others say that an angel spoke to Jesus.

Jesus goes on to say that they have their light with them for just a short time. He urges them to put their trust in the light so they may become sons of light.

Wonder Moment....

Who has helped you to grow? Who has helped you to grow in your faith?

How did you come to be a friend of God? What is your story?

Prayer

Dear God, Thank you that you sent your son Jesus to die and take the punishment for our sins. Thank you that you are the light of the world. Help us to follow you and serve you every day. We pray for all those in the world who don't know you yet that they would come to know your love and accept you as their Saviour. Amen

Activity – In your box you should have a heart candle and a small sticker label....

Jesus goes on to say that they have their light with them for just a short time.

He urges them to put their trust in the light so they may become sons of light.

With your small sticker label, write down who has helped you to grow? Who has been a guiding light for you?

Stick this onto the plastic part of your candle! As you light the candle thank god for them and thank god for being the light in our lives and ask him to help us put our trust in the light and share this with others.

Holy Wednesday

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Jesus talking about being betrayed.

Bible Reading for Wednesday of Holy Week – John 13:21-32

How do you think Jesus felt when he knew that Judas would betray him?

How do you think the other disciples felt when Jesus gave the bread to Judas?

At the beginning of the passage we know that Jesus was troubled, but even though he was struggling with what he knew had to happen he still was open and shared it with his friends. Jesus' love for us continues when we make mistakes or let God down. Even as he was being betrayed Jesus was encouraging his followers to love one another as He loved them.

Wonder Moment

How can we love one another as Jesus loves us? Even though Judas betrayed him Jesus still showed his love to him.

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you that you are a forgiving God; that no mistake we make cannot be forgiven by you. Help us to love others and forgive them just as you have forgiven us. We pray for those who have been let down and hurt in the past that they would come to know you and your love that never fails.

Amen

Activity – In your box you should have a wooden heart....

Jesus teaches us to love one another no matter who we are, whether we or others have made mistakes... Jesus died on the Cross to forgive us and others!

On your wooden heart, write the name of someone who you love no matter what...

On one side you could write your name and on the other side there name....

You could give this to them when you see them... love one another like Jesus loves us....

Maundy Thursday

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Jesus washing his disciples' feet.

Bible Reading for Thursday of Holy Week – John 13:1-17

On the Thursday of that week, Jesus went with his friends to an upstairs room in the back streets of the city for a special meal. They were remembering how God had rescued them long ago. Jesus broke bread and poured out wine and told his friends to do this to remember him in future, because now he too was about to rescue them. They were very puzzled.

Washing feet was not an unusual thing in Jesus' time – because the ground was dusty, and most people wore sandals, when you had a guest in your house you might offer to wash their feet. Jesus wanted to teach his disciples a lesson – to help them understand what it means to love and serve others. Jesus lived his life as an example for us to follow of how to share God's love with others.

How do you think the disciples felt listening to Jesus?

Jesus had told the disciples that he was going to die but that he would also come back to life, but they still didn't understand. Jesus knew that even after his death and resurrection there would be lots of work for his followers to do sharing God's love with other people. Jesus promised a helper, the Holy Spirit to be with us and help us to live for God and share God's love with others.

Wonder Moment...

Can you think of a time when somebody did something for you that you were not expecting that blessed or encouraged you?

Prayer

Dear God, Thank you that your son Jesus came and lived on the earth as an example for us to follow. Help us to love and serve others as your son loved and served the world. Help us to share your love with the world by serving those we meet. May the way we love others speak of your love in the world. Amen

Activity – In your Box you should have a bread, a cup and a cut out person....

Who is really important to you?

What was the last special memory you had with people together?

Who are the people you would like to have had joining you for a meal today?

How are you thankful for them or what do they need right now?

Write these onto your cut out person...

Put this together with the cup and bread to remind you of this story and how special people are to you....

keep this as a reminder of Jesus love for you and how important you are to him....

Good Friday

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Jesus' death on the cross.

Bible Reading for Good Friday of Holy Week – John 18:1-19:42

Garden of Gethsemane....

That night, in a garden, Jesus was arrested and put on trial. People said terrible things about him and early the next day they took him outside the city to kill him. They nailed him to a cross and by the afternoon he was dead. No one expected this to happen. It was a sad day but, strangely, it is called Good Friday.

Wonder Moment...

What do you think Jesus prayed about in the Garden? How do you think he felt in this moment?

Good Friday

Why did Jesus have to die?

It seems strange that we call the day when we remember Jesus dying "Good Friday" but for God's amazing Good news plan to happen Jesus first had to die. When Jesus died he had never done anything wrong but he took the punishment for all our mistakes.

We have all made mistakes and messed up and our sins stop us from coming close to God. When Jesus died on the cross, he made a way for all our mistakes to be forgiven so that we can come close to God.

Wonder Moment....

Jesus died on the cross for us... to take away our sins, to have a new life with him and because he loves us...

What do you want to ask God for forgiveness for? What do you want to say to God in this time?

Prayer

Dear God, I am sorry for the mistakes I have made, for the times when I have made bad choices or been disobedient. Thank you that you sent your son Jesus to die on the cross for us. Thank you that when Jesus died on the cross, he took the punishment for all my mistakes and all the mistakes of the world. Amen

Activity – in your box you should have a scratch card cross....

Although it was an incredibly sad day, Christians call the day Jesus was crucified 'Good Friday.'

This is because sometimes good things come out of sad things.

Take a scratch card – even though it's black on top, underneath are some beautiful colours. Make a pattern, write your name or draw a rainbow to remind you that even when things are hard, good things can come out of it in the end.

Holy Saturday

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Jesus in the tomb.

Bible Reading for Holy Saturday of Holy Week – Matthew 27:57-66

Next day, Saturday, it seemed as if everything stood still. Jesus' friends were shocked and frightened.

What would happen now? All they could do was hope and pray....

Jesus had told everybody that he was going to die and then rise again from the dead after three days. The people who had ordered for Jesus to be killed were worried that Jesus' friends might steal the body to make it look like Jesus had risen again. We know that Jesus didn't need to pretend, in just three days he would rise again and appear so that people could see him and know that what he had promised had come true!

Wonder Moment....

Can you think of a time when you had to wait for something that you were really excited about?

Prayer

Dear God, Thank you, God, that you always keep your promises. Thank you that even though Jesus died and was placed into the tomb he had promised He would come back to life. Help us to be patient and to trust you when we are waiting for things. Thank you that you will never let us down, that you are always there for us.

Amen

Activity – In your box you should have a postcard with a word or bible verse on this... Also you will have a plant and a stone....

Take some time as we reflect on yesterday and look towards Easter Sunday... The day when Jesus is risen... lets prepare our hearts and minds for tomorrow by taking some time to colour in your postcards... Reflect on the words and know that Jesus loves you...

With your plant and stone you might like to make your very own garden and tomb using this ready for tomorrow....

Easter Day

Today we will be exploring together, the story of the empty tomb!

Bible Reading for Easter Day – John 20:1-18

Early in the morning on Sunday, some women went to the tomb, which was a cave in a garden, but the stone was rolled away. They saw angels who told them that Jesus was alive, and later they saw him for themselves. Jesus was king after all - a different sort of king who had beaten death and who could now be with everyone, everywhere, for ever!

How did Mary know that the person she met was Jesus?

Mary did not realise at first who Jesus was, the Bible tells us that she thought he was the gardener. It was only when Jesus called her by name that she recognised him.

This is the sort of relationship that God wants with each one of us – God knows each of us by name and loves us like a shepherd loves his sheep. Just like the sheep know the voice of their shepherd God wants us to respond to him and follow Him. When he died and rose again Jesus removed all the barriers that stood between us and God, all our mistakes were wiped away, the price was paid. Because of Jesus we can choose to follow God and to enjoy a perfect relationship with Him.

Wonder Moment....

Who is your best friend? What is your favourite thing about being friends with them?

Prayer

Dear God, Thank you for the story of Easter and the empty tomb. Thank you that your plan did not end with death on the cross but with your resurrection and new life. Thank you that you made a way for us to be forgiven for all our mistakes and to be your friends forever. We pray today for all those in the world who do not yet know you, that they would draw closer to you this Easter. Amen

Matthew 28 v 6 "He is not here; he has risen!"

Activity – in your box you should have a wooden cross and stand...

Take some time today to reflect on these words....

Matthew 28 v 6 "He is not here; he has risen!"

You can decorate your very own Wooden Cross and place this with your plant garden with your stone to remind you of the past 3 days when Jesus died and now he is risen....

He died for you because he loves you!