

## **A few words on the Palm Sunday Gospel: Matthew 21.1-11**

Jesus enters Jerusalem in triumph. His fame has gone before him. The road to Jerusalem is packed with pilgrims and there is a general sense of joy and good will. Jesus is recognised as a prophet, the descendent of David and his arrival is fêted. But Jerusalem is in turmoil and its citizens are asking questions about Jesus. He enters on a donkey, a humble man, a man of peace, but he knows that he is riding towards certain death.

The days that follow will see his last encounters with the authorities, his last instructions to his disciples and his trial and crucifixion. The story of these is told in the longer passion Gospel, Matthew 27.11-54 which we are encouraged to read. As Jesus follows on this road and endures pain and suffering, **let us follow him in our hearts** and know that he has done this for us.

Let us finally meet him **at the foot of the cross** on Good Friday and **give our lives to him** who has sacrificed himself so that our sins are wiped out and we can find new life with God our Father.

As we endure the privations and isolation, the sufferings and the fear caused by Covid-19 we can turn to Jesus who understands our pain and is with us to comfort us, to encourage us and to give us hope.

Here is a shorter collect which sums up Palm Sunday for us:

*True and humble King, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and to love you, that we might be found beside you on the way to the cross, which is the path of glory. Amen*

Following on from the Palm Sunday Gospel comes a prayer and a poem chosen by **Jan** who writes: *Although we cannot meet together physically, I hope we can feel united at this time. I hope you will find these useful.*

From the Collect for Palm Sunday:

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 forever. Amen

Dear God,

You know how worried and anxious we are at this time. Please keep us calm and trustful. When we have done all that we can in our power, please enable us to be patient and leave the rest to you. Above all, give us the certainty that you are with us. Amen

***A locked church*** by Alan Amos

Ah, my dear Lord, the church is locked  
But let my heart be open to your presence;  
There let us make, you and I,  
Your Easter garden  
Plant it with flowers,  
and let the heavy stone be rolled away.

Please continue to pray for all those who are helping us and caring for us in the present crisis, for our Bishop and his staff and for the government and NHS.

### **Opportunities for accessing worship**

**PALM SUNDAY (Radio & Television) : Sunday Worship** at 10-45 on BBC1 and 8-10 on Radio 4 & **Songs of Praise** 13-15 BBC1

**Good Friday:** Archbishop Justin commends the ambitious retelling of the Passion story against the backdrop of the north-east coast (**The Great North Passion, 12 noon BBC1**) and/ or the Archbishop of York's moving meditation on the cross (**3pm Radio 4**)

You can find more update information from Bishop Pete & the **Diocese of Sheffield** on the diocesan website : <https://www.sheffield.anglican.org/cv19>.

On **Palm Sunday** and **Maundy Thursday & Good Friday** there will be new material on the diocesan website to help with prayer, reflexion and worship.

Cathedrals : [www.southwellminster.org](http://www.southwellminster.org) ; [www.durhamcathedral.co.uk](http://www.durhamcathedral.co.uk) ;  
[www.yorkminster.org](http://www.yorkminster.org) and many more.

Church of England website: [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org) for daily prayer and worship.

You may be also interested in the **following posts**: The Story of the Cross

<https://missionbibleclass.org/2013/03/09/the-story-of-the-cross/>

Burial and Resurrection of Jesus Family Bible Time <https://missionbibleclass.org/family-bible-time/burial-and-resurrection-of-jesus-family-bible-time/>