

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

5th April 2020

Today, Palm Sunday, is the start of Holy week when Our Lord entered Jerusalem with the crowds enraptured by joy and hope.

*† + RVDQQD WR WKH 6RQ RI 'DYL G
Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!
+ RVDQQD LQ WKH KLJ (KLV V) KHDYHQV .*

As we know this joy will soon turn to anguish on Maundy Thursday as Jesus prays

*XWWHUO\ DORQH LQ WKH JDUGHQ RI *HWKVH ~~VDQ~~ will +LV SUD
but Your will be done. · 7KH UDSWXURXV ZHOFRPH RI WKH FURZGV L*

Palm Sunday will become the angry cries of the mob on Good Friday, screaming

*† Crucify him! Crucify him! · 2Q +RO\ 6DWXUGD\ WKHUH ZLOO EH VLOH
the grave, the silence of darkness and loneliness. It would appear that many of
the trials and challenges Our Lord faced are now echoing in our own present
situation.*

We have the opportunity to still be able to accompany Our Lord on his journey from Jerusalem to Calvary this year, despite the effects and changes caused by the Coronavirus. We may not be able to publicly celebrate the liturgies of Holy Week in church from waving palms to kissing the Cross, from the Washing of Feet to the Easter fire, but we can still accompany him in his Passion.

Palm Sunday the crowds in Jerusalem welcomed Jesus into their city. Let us start this Holy Week by copying the crowd and inviting Jesus into our lives, into our hearts. I will be celebrating Mass privately in church at 11am. Why not join me spiritually for this hour and read the Passion Gospel for Palm Sunday which this year will be Matthew 26:14 - 27:46. Why not avail yourself of the opportunity of one another part of the day to do so. Why not avail yourself of the opportunity of one of our hearts at the start of this Holy Week so that we can feel close to him.

On Maundy Thursday we will witness Jesus washing the feet of his disciples and showing the example of true charity. Why not this Thursday pray for all those who are serving others from healthcare workers to those involved in food supply and distribution. Let us pray for those unsung heroes like neighbours looking out for one another. I will be praying an hour of prayer and join me spiritually. You may wish to read the Gospel which will be John 13:1 - 15.

Good Friday. Our Lord dies on the Cross taking all the sins of the world upon himself. You will find on the parish website the Stations of the Cross from our own church. Why not take time on this day to pray this beautiful devotion and see how much Jesus loves us. I will be praying the Good Friday Liturgy at 3pm in church. I invite you again to set some time aside and pray with me for those who have died because of the Coronavirus and those who are struggling and suffering. I will be praying an hour of prayer and join me spiritually. You may wish to read the Gospel which will be John 19:1 - 42.

On Holy Saturday why not pick up your Rosary. It is such a simple and effective prayer, especially when meditating on the Passion of Christ in the sorrowful mysteries. Our Lady always brings us so close to her Son when we turn to her in this beautiful devotion.

I will be placing a box near the Tabernacle during Holy Week for prayers, petitions and thanksgivings. If you would like prayers being placed at this time before the Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle then please do email me at sean.obrien@dioceseofsalford.org.uk and if you would like me to pray with you WKHQ GR ULQJ WKH SUHVE \WHF Wed this week from 11:30am to 11:30am to answer calls and pray with parishioners.

The Coronavirus seems to have changed so much of our daily lives and routines EXW ZKDWL SXFDQ · VWRS WR LV RXU IDLWK 3OHDVH GRQ · W WKLV \H DU EXW VHH LW DV D WLP H RI KRSH DQG D ZLWQH V love. A love that is surely needed now more than ever.

God Bless and keep praying
)U 2 · % ULHQ