

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

*Serving St Benedict's, St Mary's & St Oswald's
Warrington*



Celebrating Palm Sunday at Home

Sunday 5 April 2020

Preparation

This prayer service is for an individual or for those who share a home together. If possible, each person should have a branch from the garden or elsewhere.

Sign of the Cross

Gather together and, with each person holding a branch, begin with the Sign of the Cross:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

Introduction

During Lent, we have been preparing our hearts to celebrate Easter. Today we join Christ as he enters Jerusalem. In the coming days, we will take part in the mystery of his death and resurrection. By joining ourselves to Christ, God's grace will lift us up and rescue us.

Song

If you know a 'Hosanna' to sing, perhaps from a 'Holy, Holy' sung at Mass, why not sing it either side of the Gospel reading.

Gospel

(Matthew 21: 1-11)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

When they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find an ass tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, "The Lord has need of them," and he will send them immediately'. This took place to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

'Tell the daughter of Sion, Behold, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass'.

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the ass and the colt, and put their garments on them, and he sat thereon. Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him shouted,

'Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest!'

And when he entered Jerusalem all the city was stirred, saying, 'Who is this?' And the crowds said, 'The prophet Jesus from Nazareth of Galilee'.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection

Pause for a moment of silent reflection. Then talk together about what Jesus will do in Jerusalem in the coming days. What will happen on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday?

Bidding Prayers

There are some Bidding Prayers on the parish website for today, or you may like to make your own prayers as an individual or group.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray in the words Jesus himself gave us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Concluding Prayer

Lord, increase the faith of your people and listen to our prayers.

Today we honour Christ our triumphant king by carrying these branches.

May we honour you every day

by living always in him,

for he is Lord for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Blessing

May God bless us and keep us safe.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

Why not display your branches in your window or on your front door as a sign of prayer and support.

Acknowledgements

Adapted from material produced by Liturgy Brisbane. Gospel Reading from *The Jerusalem Bible* © 1966 by Darton Longman & Todd Ltd and Doubleday and Company Ltd.



Other Prayers and Readings for Palm Sunday

Litany of Praise

To Jesus, the True Light, who illumines the darkness and brings us hope during difficult times.

Hosanna to the Son of David!

To Jesus, the Prince of Peace, who models compassion and inclusion, sensitivity and goodwill.

Hosanna to the Son of David!

To Jesus, the Master Teacher, who shows by example how to accompany others, offering gentle guidance and direction.

Hosanna to the Son of David!

To Jesus, the Great Healer, who cares for the sick with tenderness and mercy, showing love to heal body, mind, and spirit.

Hosanna to the Son of David!

To Jesus, the Paschal Victim, who dies so that we might rise to new life.

Hosanna to the Son of David!

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Scripture Readings

The readings used at Mass today can be found on the parish website. They include the following passages:

Isaiah 50: 4-7

Ps 21: 8-9, 17-20, 23-24

Philippians 2: 6-11

Matthew 26: 14 – 27: 66

Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,

I believe that you

are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.

I love you above all things,

and I desire to receive you into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment

receive you sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you as if you were already there

and unite myself wholly to you.

I love you, my Jesus:

never permit me to be separated from you.

Amen.

Easter Duties

In these extraordinary circumstances when we are unable to gather together to celebrate the great feasts of Holy Week and Easter, Cardinal Nichols has said that the obligation to our Easter Duties to go to Confession and receive Holy Communion is removed from us. Instead, he says, we can make an Act of Perfect Contrition to express our deep sorrow at our sins.

Reflection

This beautiful prayer was written by an Italian priest who is self-isolating at the moment and very sadly lost his own brother a few days ago to Covid-19...

I'm staying at home, Lord! I'm staying at home, Lord! And today, I realise, you taught me this, remaining obedient to the Father, for thirty years in the house of Nazareth, waiting for the great mission.

I stay at home, Lord, and in Joseph's studio, your keeper and mine, I learn to work, to obey, to round the corners of my life and prepare you a work of art.

I'm staying at home, Lord! And I know that I am not alone because Mary, like any mother, is in the next room, doing chores and preparing lunch for all of us, God's family.

I'm staying at home, Lord! And I do it responsibly for my own good, for the health of my city, for my loved ones, and for the good of my brother, whom you have put beside me, asking me to take care of him in the garden of life.

I'm staying at home, Lord! And in the silence of Nazareth, I pledge to pray, to read, study, meditate, be useful for small jobs, in order to make our home more beautiful and more welcoming.

I'm staying at home, Lord! And in the morning, I thank you for the new day you give me, trying not to spoil it and welcome it with wonder, as a gift and an Easter surprise.

I'm staying at home, Lord! And at noon I will receive the greeting of the angel, I will make myself useful for love, in communion with you who have made you flesh to live among us; and, tired of the journey, thirsty, I will meet you at Jacob's well, and thirsty for love on the Cross.

I'm staying at home, Lord! And if the evening takes me melancholy, I will invoke you like the disciples of Emmaus: stay with us, the evening has arrived and the sun sets.

I'm staying at home, Lord! And in the night, in communion of prayer with the many sick, the lonely and all the caregivers, I will wait for the dawn to sing your mercy again and tell everyone that, in the storms, you have been my refuge.

I'm staying at home, Lord! And I don't feel alone and abandoned, because you told me: I'm with you every day. yes, and especially in these days of confusion, O Lord, in which, if my presence is not necessary, I will reach everyone, only with the wings of prayer. Amen.