

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Celebrating Palm Sunday at Home

Sunday 24 March 2024

Preparation

If possible, take some green branches from your garden to represent the branches people waved on that first Palm Sunday. If you cannot gather some branches, perhaps take some pieces of cloth to represent the cloaks laid before Jesus on his entry to Jerusalem.

Sign of the Cross

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

R. Amen.

Introduction

Today, we commemorate Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem before the days of his passion, death and resurrection. Great crowds gathered to welcome the famous preacher and miracle worker from Galilee. However, in just a few days, many of that same crowd would shout 'Crucify him!' as they demanded that Jesus be brutally put to death.

Gospel

(Mark 11: 1-10)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

When they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, and said to them, 'Go into the village opposite you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, "Why are you doing this?" say, "The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately."' And they went away, and found a colt tied at the door out in the open street; and they untied it. And those who stood there said to them, 'What are you doing, untying the colt?' And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their garments on it; and he sat upon it. And many spread their garments on the road, and others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. And those who went before and those who followed cried out, 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the

Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is coming! Hosanna in the highest!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection

Pause for a moment of silent reflection. Perhaps think about what Jesus will do in Jerusalem in the coming days – 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 up your own prayers. Please remember especially the people of the Holy Land and Ukraine.

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

Father, 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 trying to live as his disciples, for he is Lord for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Blessing

May the Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

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 that we're beginning the holiest week of the year?

Hosanna!

Acknowledgements

Scripture Reading from *The Jerusalem Bible* © 1966 by Darton Longman & Todd Ltd and Doubleday and Company Ltd.