

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Celebrating Palm Sunday at Home

Sunday 29 March 2026

Preparation

If possible, take some green branches from your garden to represent the branches people waved on that first Palm Sunday. If this is not possible, 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

(Matthew 21: 1-11)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

When Jesus and his disciples drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, "The Lord needs them", and he will send them at once.' This took place to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet, saying, 'Say to the daughter of Sion, "Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden."'

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks 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 were shouting, '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, the whole city was stirred up, saying, 'Who is this?' And the crowds said, 'This is 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. Think about what Jesus will do in Jerusalem in the coming days – on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Song

You might like to play a song for Palm Sunday from a CD or YouTube, e.g. My song is love unknown, Praise to the holiest in the height, Jesus remember me, etc.

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 Middle East, Sudan and Ukraine.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

If you are able, why not display your green branches in your window or on your front door as a sign that we're beginning the holiest week of the year?



Acknowledgements

Scripture Reading from the English translation of the *Lectionary for Mass* © 2023 Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and Bishops' Conference of Scotland.