

Holy Week at Home



Ways to worship during
Holy Week when we can't
be together.

Palm Sunday

Reading: Mark 11:1-11

On Palm Sunday we remember the day when Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey to shouts of praise. Crowds of people gathered to welcome Jesus shouting,



“Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord”. (v.9)

Many of us are used to gathering on Palm Sunday; to sing to wave palms and to celebrate together. Our current situation, with some of us isolated completely overturns what we find to be normal in our lives.

It is important to remember that we are called to praise God in these times and remember that Jesus is our King.

Points for reflection

- Imagine you are a character in this story, which character are you? How do you feel?
- How could you praise God in isolation?



Today, join in with the celebrations of Palm Sunday at home. Spend some time praising God. Could you be creative and make a cross? Could you write words of praise on paper? Could you sit with a candle and a cross and spend time in prayer?

Let us pray together:

Lord Jesus, we thank you today for the reminder that you are our King. We praise and give you thanks for who you are. You are almighty, you are wonderful, and you are our God. We praise you today. Amen.

Monday of Holy Week

Reading: John 12: 1-11

Mary in this reading does an action that is out of the norm, she takes the most expensive perfume she can find and pours it on Jesus' feet. Our reading today tells us that,

"The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume" (v. 3)



When we are in our own house, we may miss the smell of freshly cut grass, or of our friend's or families house when we visit, we may miss the smell of the fresh air as we go to Church on a Sunday morning. When Mary poured that perfume on Jesus' feet, the whole room was filled with a beautiful scent. She is showing Jesus how much she loves Him. And His reaction to her, when everyone else was angry, showed His love for her.

Points for reflection

- Who do you feel closest to in this story, Mary? Judas? Martha, Mary's Sister? Or one of the other guests? What would you say or do?



Try and find something in your house that has a beautiful scent (aftershave or perfume on a cotton pad, a candle, some food or a flower) and place it next to a picture of Jesus, or a Bible. Take time to enjoy the scent in Jesus' presence and know that He loves you.

Let us pray together:

Lord Jesus, we come to you today and thank you for your love for us. We thank you that even in the hardest times your love does endure. Help us show our love for you. Amen.

Tuesday of Holy Week

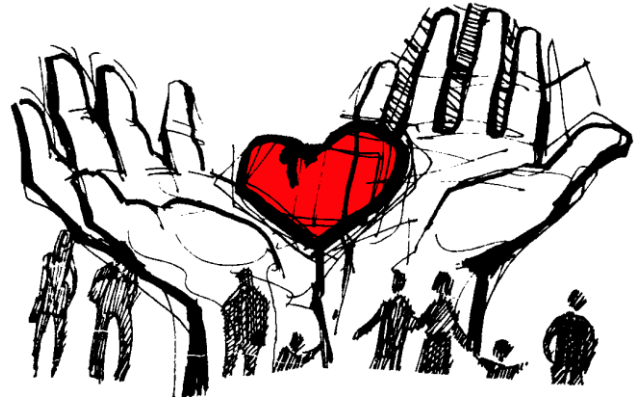
Reading: Mark 12:28-34

Jesus calls his Disciples to love God and love their neighbours.

“The second is this, love your neighbour as yourself” (v. 31)

Our neighbours are those people that we may love with, the people on our streets, the people in our country and in the world. It can be hard to show love to our neighbours at this time. We may feel lonely ourselves.

When Jesus called his Disciples, He called them to be in community. During this time, we are called to find creative ways to be community together.



Points for reflection

- Think about the last few weeks. What have others done for you? What have you heard that has brought a moment of joy or comfort?
- How can you express love to one another, within this time?



Express your love for someone in the best way that you can. Maybe make a phone call, write a letter or a card. You could send a text message to someone. Take photos, send a poem to someone, sing to a neighbour over the fence. We are children of a creative, loving God!

Let us pray together,

Lord Jesus, we thank you for this reminder to show others love. Help us love our neighbours. Lord protect and comfort those who are lonely during this time, bless them with the warmth of your presence. Amen.

Wednesday of Holy Week

Reading: Matthew 26:1-5, 14-16

Jesus knew that He was going to be betrayed. He knew that Judas would speak to the chief priests,

“What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you? So, they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver” (v. 15)

Jesus doesn't stop Judas; He even eats his final meal with Him. We can learn from Jesus in this situation, there will be times in our lives when people hurt us or betray us. There will also be times when we hurt others. We can learn from Jesus how to deal with these situations in the best possible way.



Points for reflection

- How can we respond to those people who hurt us?
- How should we respond when we are treated unfairly?
- What can we do when we hurt others?

Take a coin and hold it in your hand. Think of those times when we have felt betrayed or hurt and offer them to God. Let us also hold the coin and remember those times when we have hurt others and ask God for forgiveness. Know that through Jesus we can forgive others and we can be forgiven.



Let us pray together,

Lord Jesus, we are sorry for those times we have hurt others. We ask that you show us ways to make amends and to bring peace to your world. Help us forgive those who have hurt us. Help us live each day in the light of your forgiveness. Amen.

Maundy Thursday

Reading: John 13:1-13

Jesus welcomes his Disciples to his final meal with them by washing their feet.

“After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.” (v. 5)

This action, the action of a servant, showed His Disciples more of who He was, a servant King. Using water to wash them clean.

In our current situation, we are aware of the importance of water and of keeping our hands clean.

Points for reflection

- How do you feel when you wash your hands in the current climate?
- How can we remember those who do not have clean water to wash their hands at this time?
- How can we turn the washing of our hands into an act of service?



Take a bowl of water, spend some time washing your hands. Remember that in this time of isolation you are not alone. Take this time to pray, thank God for the gift of water and pray for those who do not have water today.

Let us pray together,

Lord Jesus, thank you for humbling yourself and reminding us today that you are a Servant King. Teach us to learn how to love like you, to serve like you and live like you. Amen.