

## ST ANDREW'S



## ST MARGARET'S



### **Readings and Reflection for Sunday 5 April 2020 – Palm Sunday**

#### **Collect Prayer**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
who in your tender love towards the human race  
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ  
to take upon him our flesh  
and to suffer death upon the cross:  
grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility,  
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

#### **Matthew 21: 1-11**

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew*

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead 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, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.' This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, 'Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

**Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-end**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his mercy endures for ever.

Let Israel now proclaim,  
'His mercy endures for ever.'

***This is the day that the Lord has made.  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.***

Open for me the gates of righteousness;  
I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the Lord.  
'This is the gate of the Lord;  
whoever is righteous may enter.'

***This is the day that the Lord has made.  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.***

I will give thanks to you, for you answered me  
and have become my salvation.  
The same stone which the builders rejected  
has become the chief corner-stone.

***This is the day that the Lord has made.  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.***

This is the Lord's doing,  
and it is marvellous in our eyes.  
On this day the Lord has acted;  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

***This is the day that the Lord has made.  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.***

Hosanna, Lord, hosanna!  
Lord, send us now success.  
Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord;  
we bless you from the house of the Lord.

***This is the day that the Lord has made.  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.***

God is the Lord; he has shined upon us;  
form a procession with branches  
up to the horns of the altar.  
'You are my God and I will thank you;  
you are my God and I will exalt you.'  
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his mercy endures for ever.

***This is the day that the Lord has made.  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.***

## **Philippians 2. 5-11**

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.*

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

## **A Prayer after Communion**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant,  
and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation:  
give us the mind to follow you  
and to proclaim you as Lord and King,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## **A Reflection:**

*When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?'*

There are two distinct parts of Palm Sunday worship, the procession with palms and the reading of the Passion Gospel.

The procession is the first of the commemorative actions of Holy Week which remind us of the last week of Jesus' ministry. Taken together, the customs and practices of Palm Sunday and Holy Week, are both a reenactment of what happened in the past as well as an act of praise for the present.

The reading of the Passion Gospel takes us into the heart of Holy Week. Coming after the procession with palms, it reminds us that the kingly power of Christ is very different from the way we usually understand 'power', for it is the power of self-emptying love alone.

This reading sheet starts with the 'Palm Gospel' which recounts Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and is followed by a Psalm and Epistle. We suggest that you read the Passion Gospel, Matthew 26.14 – 27.66 from your own Bibles, perhaps in its entirety on Sunday and then in stages during the week.

Holy Week always offers us the chance to immerse ourselves in the story of Jesus' final days. To help us do this, it is worth asking two questions throughout the different stages of the week.

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, we are told that the city was in turmoil asking 'Who is this?'

At the same time it is worth asking 'Who (or where) am I?'

Who is this, as he rides on a donkey? Who is this as he shares supper with his friends, and as he washes their feet? Who is this in the Garden of Gethsemane? Who is this as he is accused by the religious authorities, disowned by Pilate and mocked by the crowd? Who is this as he asks why God has forsaken him? Who is this as he offers forgiveness to those who are crucifying him and assures paradise to a penitent thief?

Who am I on Palm Sunday? Where am I after supper on Thursday evening – watching with Jesus or asleep? Who am I when Peter denies knowing Jesus? Who am I when Jesus is on trial? Who am I when the crowd is baying for his blood? Who am I as the disciples flee? Where am I as Mary and John stay at the foot of the cross?

Reflecting in this way we will learn once again that the story of Holy Week is also a story about ourselves for at various times we have all played the different roles. There is only one truly innocent figure in the story and it isn't you and it isn't me.

## **READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD**

**Monday 6 April:** Psalm 41; Lamentations 1: 1-12a; Luke 22: 1-23

**Tuesday 7 April:** Psalm 27; Lamentations 3: 1-18; Luke 22: [24-38] 39-53

**Wednesday 8 April:** Psalm 102; Wisdom 1: 16 – 2: 1; 2: 12-22 or Jeremiah 11: 18-20; Luke 22: 54-end

**Thursday 9 April – Maundy Thursday:** Psalms 42, 43; Leviticus 16: 2-24; Luke 23: 1-25

**Friday 10 April – Good Friday:** Psalm 69; Genesis 22: 1-18; John 18: 1 – end of 19 or Hebrews 10: 1-10

**Saturday 11 April:** Psalm 23; Exodus 11; Hebrews 13: 17-end

# PRAYERS THIS WEEK

True and humble king,  
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:  
grant us the faith to know you and love you,  
that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross,  
which is the path of glory. **Amen.**

God of compassion,  
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.  
In their loneliness, be their consolation;  
in their anxiety, be their hope;  
in their darkness, be their light;  
through him who suffered alone on the cross,  
but reigns with you in glory,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gracious God,  
give skill, sympathy and resilience to all who are caring for the sick,  
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.  
Strengthen them with your Spirit,  
that through their work many will be restored to health;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Please pray for:**

### **Our World and our Country**

Those who work in the NHS and other  
health services around the world.  
Governments working to combat the spread  
of Coronavirus.

### **Our Church**

Our church family.  
Those who attend services and groups which  
are unable to take place at this time.

### **Our Community**

Those who are self-isolating in line with  
guidance about Coronavirus.  
Those helping others with shopping,  
collecting medicines etc. during periods of  
self-isolation and illness.

### **Our Mission partners**

Please pray for the work and ministry of  
**A Rocha UK.**

### **Those in need**

Those who have Coronavirus.  
Those who are anxious.

### **We remember in faith and love**

We remember in faith and love those who  
have died recently, and we pray for their  
families. We remember too those whose  
anniversaries fall at this time: Freddie Fidler,  
John Page, June Riches, Mei Lein Walker,  
Vernon Guest, Dennis Cornish, Fr John Wall,  
Richard Goodwins, Margaret Newton and  
Bob Lord.

### **Pastoral Care and Prayer**

If you would value someone to talk to/pray  
with at this time please do contact one of  
the clergy or the parish office.