



Palm Sunday



Holy Week

Hello again from St Mary's Church. We were last with you during Advent when we were getting ready for Christmas. Now we are getting ready for another very special story about Jesus, the story of the first Easter, when he died on the cross and rose again.

There are so many important Bible stories that help us get ready for Easter, that we need more than one Faith at Home for Families sheet to hold them all! The week with all the Easter stories inside it is called Holy Week. This is the week that starts on Palm Sunday when Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey, and ends on Easter Day.

This Faith at Home sheet will start with Palm Sunday. There will be separate ones for Maundy Thursday, when Jesus shared the Last Supper; Good Friday, when Jesus died; and Easter Day when he rose from the dead. We hope you will follow Jesus with us as we get ready for Easter!

There is a lot of good news in the Easter stories. I wonder which bit will be good news for you?

Palm Sunday

If you want to read this story about Jesus for yourself it's in the Bible, in Mark's gospel, chapter 11, verses 1-11.

I wonder if you have ever been to a parade? Since the pandemic started it's more difficult to imagine a big crowd because it has been so long since we have seen one. But if you want to, close your eyes and see if you can hear the noise of lots of people lining the streets, talking and singing 'Hosanna'. Now open your eyes, can you 'see' them?



Everyone is waiting for Jesus to come. They know all about the miracles he has been doing, healing people and forgiving their sins. They see him as their

King, come to save them from their difficult life and make Israel great again. They were very excited! People didn't have flags to wave like we do at a parade, so they used leaves from the palm trees. And they didn't have a red carpet, so they put their cloaks on the ground.



When Jesus finally arrived, he was riding on a donkey. An unusual way to arrive at a parade you might say. Even in Jesus' day, Kings didn't usually ride on donkeys, because donkeys are humble animals, used to carry heavy loads. It would be a bit like the Queen arriving in a lorry instead of a limousine car.

The donkey was one of the ways Jesus tried to tell people that he wasn't the kind of King everyone was expecting. We already know he was born in a stable and he grew up in an ordinary home. He wasn't rich or important; he didn't wear fancy clothes. Not very 'Kingly' at all. And we also know what happens next in his story, that he dies on the cross – again not very 'Kingly' to die.

Yet for now, hundreds of people followed him; they had all turned out for the parade, to welcome him into Jerusalem. Everyone was happy.

Jesus was the expected King who did an unexpected thing by riding a donkey. I wonder if you can surprise someone this week that will make them smile?

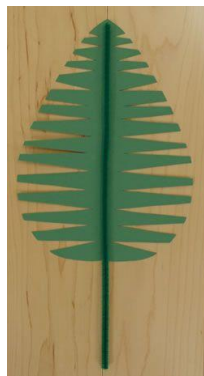
Activity

You can make your own palm leaves to wave, as if you are in the parade! If you don't have any green paper at home, you can colour in or paint some ordinary white paper. Here are some options:

The rolled up kind...



some fancy cutting...



or handprints!



Happy waving!

Prayer

Here is a prayer you can say on Palm Sunday:

Dear God, we thank you that we can praise you by waving Palm leaves or flags or just our hands! Help us to keep following you through Holy Week. Amen.

What happens next...

If you are reading this and you want to find out more about who Jesus is and what the church is doing in Bottesford, Muston, Redmile, Plungar and Barkestone, you can contact St Mary's Church either by ringing our Office on 01949 842859, emailing stmbottesford@gmail.com or sending us a message on our Facebook page. We'd love to hear from you!