



Heacham Parish Church

Holy Week and Easter are going to be very different this year for us as a church, but they are also going to be the much the same, we are still journeying with Jesus towards the cross and beyond it. It was a lonely difficult journey for Jesus, knowing but not knowing what was happening, trusting his father but still facing an incredibly testing and tough time. In some ways it's the same for us but different, at this unprecedented time in our world, we know but don't know what is happening, we trust God, but find it hard in this testing and tough time, my prayer for us all this week is that we know that God holds us firmly in his hand, and yes this week, holy week, we will journey with Jesus to the cross, but knowing that the resurrection will come,

My prayer for you and me this week: *Lord Jesus you are compassionate to those in need and heal the sick in body and mind. Look kindly on those who are fearful at this time. Help us all to put away all thoughts and actions that separate us from you and one another. Give us grace to live our lives confident in your promise that you are with us always. Amen* With my love and prayers  
Veronica

## **Prayers, readings and reflections for Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

### Meditation

God is with me now, closer than breathing and nearer than hands and feet. God has made me for himself. I come to God. I belong to God. I go to God. God knows me, God loves me, God has a use for me now and for ever.

## Prayer

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for the gift of this new day. In these uncertain and stressful times, give us your peace and help us to overcome our fears. May we know your presence as we draw near to you now and enable us to worship you in spirit and in truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn 629 (MP) Tell me the stories of Jesus

Today we celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus coming into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week. It is one of the few occasions in Jesus' life which is mentioned in all four gospels (Matthew 2:1-17; Mark 11: 1-11; Luke 19:29-40; John 12: 12-19).

## Prayers

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We give you thanks, dear Lord, that although we are unable to meet for worship in our church building, we are able to worship in a different way as dispersed members of the Body of Christ, thanks to the benefits of modern technology. Deepen our faith and our fellowship with each other and give us the assurance of your love. We pray especially for all who are affected by corona virus, that they may find comfort and support. For all hospital staff, especially our QEH, as they cope with extra demands on their services and that they receive all the resources they need. For all who are anxious, lonely, vulnerable and isolated and for all those ill at this time and all caring for them. God of compassion, we ask you to accept the prayers we offer, for Jesus sake. We commend ourselves and for all whom we pray, to your mercy and protection. Amen.

Reading: Matthew 21: 1-11

## **Peter Murrays Thoughts**

In the ancient world conquering kings rode horses; a king riding a donkey would have been a strange sight. But the arrival of this king and his mission would be like no other. It was widely believed that the Messiah would come to set up an earthly kingdom and deliver the people from Roman rule. People had seen a few pseudo-Messiahs come and go, leading revolts that came to nothing. Now at last their hopes would be realised. Or would they? It soon became clear that most of those spreading their cloaks underfoot, waving their palm branches and shouting their acclamations would a few days later be behaving differently. (Matthew 27: 22,23). The tone would change and the king would be rejected.

Jesus chose to ride on the donkey to demonstrate that the kingdom he was inaugurating was one of peace and love. The donkey is a symbol of peace, and in doing so he was fulfilling the Old Testament prophecy, particularly Zechariah 9:9. In those times to show their respect for a king, it was customary for people to put down their clothes for the king to walk on ( 2 Kings 9:12,13 ). But this king would not fulfil popular expectations. Palm Sunday reminds us that Jesus' kingdom is one of service and servanthood, offering peace with God, salvation and promise of eternal life. He desires to make a triumphal entry into our lives, transforming them and bringing in his reign of justice and as Jesus journeyed into Jerusalem, so we as his disciples are called to an ever- deepening commitment to journey with him and demonstrate his love and peace to others. One commentator says: " It's dynamic, always engaging, ever moving, unpredictable, and it constantly compels us outside of ourselves." And it's always an exciting adventure!

### **Final prayer**

O Lord God, from whom we come, in whom we are infolded, to whom we shall return: bless us in our pilgrimage through life; with the power of the Father protecting, with the love of Jesus in dwelling, and the light of the spirit guiding, until we come to our ending, in life and love eternal. Amen

**Prayers for Others** At this time please pray for the bereaved families and friends of: Derek Roper, Robin Reed, Paul Harris (Carol Harris' Son), Theresa Stafford, Ron Cobb and Lucy Humphries.

Those in our Residential Care Homes: Christine Doncaster, Molly Sage, Kathleen Herbert, David Goff and Jean Andrews.

### **Corona Community Support Update, coordinated by Heacham Parish Church**

We have since 16<sup>th</sup> March, delivered over 50 prescriptions from Boots to our village, signposted even more people to where they can get shopping, newspapers, bread, etc delivered locally, as well as talking to them on the phone and praying for them. Thank you Chris, for coordinating this and for the 19 volunteers, if you want to be part of this team, let me know. Thanks Veronica

### **Foodbank Donations**

As we are not able to collect donations to take to the Purfeet Trust at this time, maybe you could consider giving to the Hunstanton and District Foodbank, which covers Heacham and who in the last 2 weeks have delivered food parcels to at least 4 Heacham homes.

1) The foodbank is receiving donations at St Edmund's Church Hall at 2.30pm on Mondays and Thursdays, or in the box behind the checkouts at Hunstanton Sainsburys.

2) This is the link to online giving

[https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/donation-web/charity?charityId=1018915&utm\\_source=extbtn&utm\\_campaign=donatebtn](https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/donation-web/charity?charityId=1018915&utm_source=extbtn&utm_campaign=donatebtn)

### **Messy Church**

This weekend 27 children in 13 families from our Messy Church have received 'Messy Church At home Easter Pack' with activities and prayers for them, and an Easter egg! Thank you Karen, Terry, Veronica, Veronica, Kailtyn, Penny, Sue and Lynda.

### **Good Friday and Easter Sunday**

We will be emailing/delivering a good Friday service this week, as well as an Easter Day one for next Sunday.