

Reflection for Palm Sunday – 5th April 2020

We hear two very different stories from Matthew's Gospel today. In the first one, we hear how Jesus arrived near Jerusalem and gave instructions to his disciples to fetch a donkey and a colt. When Jesus is ready, he travels to Jerusalem and along the way people are welcoming him by spreading their cloaks and branches from the trees on the road.

Well, we find ourselves in the completely different situation. A situation, none of us would have ever dreamed of. Our world has been turned upside down in so many ways. Today – on Palm Sunday – when we should be walking up and down Albert Street, waiving our palm crosses and palm branches and sing 'All glory, laud and honour', we may feel the sadness of our situation.

In a midst of unknown, anxiety, loneliness, sorrow we enter into the holiest of Holy Week to journey with Jesus towards his Passion, Death and Resurrection. The readings appoint for today, are telling us a story of suffering. These readings are also acknowledging how human life is fragile...

Now than ever before Jesus calls us to acknowledge him as our Christ and our King. Not just to acknowledge but also to proclaim him as our Christ and our King. After all, in our first reading from Matthew's Gospel, we are told that at the last day, when the King comes in his glory, and all are gathered before him, all of us hear, how we have already recognised and proclaimed Jesus' royal presence among us.

I hope that each of one us would have time to spend a moment in silence to reflect how we are already recognising and proclaiming Jesus' royal presence among us.

For example, we hung some plant branches as a symbol of Palm Sunday on our front doors. We are active in the ways suits best for us to serve the needs of one another.

We cannot visit, but we can reach out to each other by phoning, by doing shopping to our self-isolating neighbour, by helping our children to cope without their friends, by helping our young people to get along with

their brothers and sisters, by remembering to be kind to one another and ourselves, or lighting a candle on the windowsill every evening as a sign of hope, and so on, all of it matters!

This Palm Sunday indeed is very different. Yet in the midst of all the upside down world we live in, it is also somewhat weirdly – a perfect way to start this holiest of Holy Week. In our social distancing, in our inability to go to church building, we are called to connect with Jesus' journey perhaps deeper level than ever before. May all this week ahead of us, be made holy, and may everything we do, be pleasing unto God.

Amen.