

This Week you are Asked to Pray For:

- Those in the parish and further afield who are sick or in need that they receive peace and healing, including: Irene Foord, Mary Mines, Helena Oecken, Ian Wilson, Ron Goodearl, Ian Goodearl, Phillipa King, Jenny King, Beryl Palmer, Sally Zeybek and David Lawrence.
- The recently departed, including Mollie Patricia White, who died on 16th March, may their souls rest in peace. We pray for Jill and her family at this difficult time.
- All parts of the world affected by the Coronavirus (Covid-19), those who are ill with the virus and those caring for them. For our own country where infection rates are still high, and the health services as they work to cope with the large number of hospital cases.
- For the country of South Africa, for the people of Cape Town and Diocese of Kimberly and Kuruman including our linked parish of St. Mary's Kuruman.

ST. MARY'S THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Don't forget the Lent challenge to read the daily thoughts which are published by St Mary's every day except Sunday on their Facebook page. Written by clergy and members of the leadership team, the reflections are inspirational and thought provoking. To access the Thoughts, click on the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarysrisborough/>

or access via St Mary's website (stmarysrisborough.org.uk).

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PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, LACEY GREEN



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

**Week Commencing
SUNDAY 28th March 2021
PALM SUNDAY**

FOCUS ON... PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday marks the first day of Holy Week, the last week of the Christian solemn season of Lent that precedes the arrival of Eastertide. In most liturgical churches, Palm Sunday is celebrated by the blessing and distribution of palm branches (or the branches of other native trees), representing the palm branches which the crowd scattered in front of Jesus Christ as he rode on a donkey into Jerusalem. This event is recorded in all four Gospels as taking place a week before Christ's resurrection. The Gospel testimony is that the celebrating people there laid down their cloaks and small branches of trees in front of him, crying "Hosanna to the Son of David" and singing verses 25-26 of Psalm 118, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord". In ancient times, palm branches symbolized goodness and victory. They were often depicted on coins and important buildings. According to 1 Kings 6:29, King Solomon had palm branches carved into the walls and doors of the Temple at Jerusalem. Again, at the end of the Bible in Revelation 7:9, we are told that people from every nation will raise palm branches to honour Jesus. The word "Hosanna" was originally a plea of urgent supplication; meaning "deliver us now". The priests of ancient Israel would repeat it on the seventh day of the Feast of Tabernacles, as a petition for rain. But, as the Feast of Tabernacles gradually changed from a feast of petition into one of praise, so too the cry for help turned more and more into a shout of jubilation. By the time of Jesus, the word had also acquired Messianic overtones. In the "Hosanna" acclamation, then, we find an expression of the deep and complex emotions of the pilgrims accompanying Jesus and of his disciples; joyful praise of God at the moment of the processional entry; hope that the hour of the Messiah had truly arrived; and at the same time a prayer for God's kingship to be established in its fullness.

Canon Tony Bundock

Weekly Services:

SUNDAY

10:00 am GMT On-line Morning Worship with Hymns on Zoom

TUESDAY

9:30 am GMT On-line Celtic Morning Worship on Zoom

WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S

England remains in a third National Lockdown. Current Guidance issued by the Bishop of Oxford is that it is expected, providing the progressive reduction in lockdown measures over the next few months continues as planned, that there can be a return to in-person public worship in step 3 of the relaxation of lockdown restrictions. The previous PCC decision that in-church collective worship will be suspended for the present continues. The PCC will be meeting after Easter to discuss options for resuming in-church worship as hopefully lockdown restrictions are eased.

We will continue to hold an On-line Morning Worship Service with Hymns on Sundays (at 10:00 am GMT for the present). The Tuesday morning service has been replaced with an On-line Celtic Morning Prayer service at 09:30 am GMT. We will also be opening the church for private prayer on two days during the week (Tuesday Morning from 10:00 to 10:30 am and Thursday Evening from 7:00 to 7:30 pm).

COLLECT FOR PALM SUNDAY

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, *Amen*.



READINGS FOR PALM SUNDAY

Isaiah Ch. 50 VV. 4 – 9a
Philippians Ch. 2 VV. 5 – 11

Mark Ch. 11 V. 1 – 11

PRAYER CHAIN PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

(THIS SUNDAY THE INTERCESSIONS WILL BE LED BY JUNE BRAZIER)



Heavenly father, on this Palm Sunday we offer You thanks and praise for Prayers already answered. We pray for an end to Coronavirus. We pray that there is effective Vaccines for all peoples, and Peace throughout the World.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for protection and guidance in our lives. Hear our prayers, Amen.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us evermore. Amen.

MORNING WORSHIP PALM SUNDAY

This Sunday's Online Morning Worship service on Zoom will be broadcast from St. John's. It will be led by Canon Tony with assistance from Graham King, who will read the Gospel of the Passion. The service will start at 10:00 am GMT. Details are being supplied in the email sending out this Pew Sheet.



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

A programme of services is being held on Zoom. Some of these services will be broadcast from St. John's. Zoom links for all the services will be sent out separately (see Emails and Pew Sheet Supplement). The services will be as follows:

- Palm Sunday (28th March) Service of the Word with Hymns at 10.00am.
- Tuesday in Holy Week (30th March) - Celtic Morning Prayer at 9.30am.
- Maundy Thursday (1st April) Service of the Word with Hymns at 7.30pm.
- Good Friday (2nd April) Service of the Word with Hymns at 2.00pm.
- Easter Day (4th April) Service of the Word with Hymns at 10.00am.

BLESSING OF PALMS

Palm crosses can be collected from Church on Palm Sunday at 12 noon, Tuesday of Holy Week at 10am and Maundy Thursday at 7.30pm.

THE ST. JOHN'S LENTEN FRONTAL

This Sunday we move to the bottom right-hand corner of the Lenten Array Altar Frontal and consider the fourth group of symbols relating to Jesus' journey to the Cross; three dice and a garment which looks like a cloak, or possibly a Chasuble symbolising Priesthood, not that Jesus would have worn such a garment. The grouping represents the soldiers casting lots to divide up Jesus' clothes immediately after they had crucified him (Mark Ch. 15 V.24).

