

St Alban's Catholic Church, Finchley

Children's Liturgy

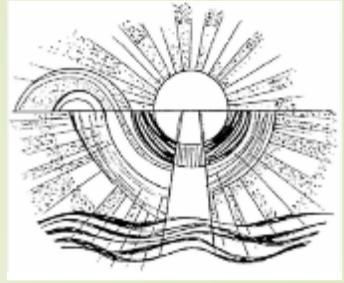
Content from Cafod and RCDoW

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>

<https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/catechesis/childrens-liturgy/>



Palm Sunday Year A **Sunday 5th April 2020**



Do you have a candle and perhaps a cross? Why don't you collect them and join together as a family to welcome Jesus.

Let us light the candle, make the sign of the cross and say...

**Dear God,
Thank you for the big, round world
Thank you for the sea.
Thank you God for all my friends,
Thank you God for loving me.
Amen**



Start with this song to start: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OjIDt6cZLSU>
Keep singing the refrain as the recording sings the verses on top. It's a perfect song for a procession!

**Sing hosanna,
Sing hosanna to the King, Son of David!**

Here he comes! Follow the Master for he comes to save us all.

Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

They came running down the street so excited were the children as they came.

**The children came with olive branches. They tried to touch him as he came:
for they loved him, they believed him, and they followed him to Jerusalem.**

**Sing him praise all of our days, blessings on him forever,
Sing him praise, all of our days for his name is Wonder Counsellor.**

Sing hosanna to the King, sing hosanna, sing hosanna!

Shout and sing! Come and see the King! See him riding by!

(Christopher Walker)

Let us read today's Gospel.

Gospel Acclamation:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hv_oh5zkl6I

(Bernadette Farrell)

'Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory:
Christ was humbler yet,
Even to accepting death, death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name which is above all names.
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Matthew 21:1-11)

Glory to you, O Lord.

As Jesus and his disciples approached Jerusalem, they came to Bethphage at the Mount of Olives. There Jesus sent two of the disciples on ahead with these instructions: "Go to the village there ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied up with her colt beside her. Untie them and bring them to me. And if anyone says anything, tell him, 'The Master needs them'; and then he will let them go at once."

This happened in order to make what the prophet had said come true:

"Tell the city of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you!
He is humble and rides on a donkey
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

So the disciples went and did what Jesus had told them to do: they brought the donkey and the colt, threw their cloaks over them, and Jesus got on. A large crowd of people spread their cloaks on the road while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds walking in front of Jesus and those walking behind began to shout, "Praise to David's Son! God bless him who comes in the name of the Lord! Praise be to God!"

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was thrown into an uproar. "Who is he?" the people asked.

"This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee," the crowds answered.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.

Reflection

Today is a special day, called Palm Sunday. Today there are two gospel readings. We read the first one. In the first gospel reading we heard how Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey. The donkey was a very humble animal – not very special for such an important person like Jesus. **Why do you think he chose a donkey?**

If Jesus were to arrive here today, do you think he would ride on a donkey? What would he ride or drive?

All of the people were so happy to see Jesus that they laid their cloaks on the floor and cut branches from palm trees to lay before him to show their respect. This is why today is called Palm Sunday. They shouted to show their joy and praise for God. **'Hosanna', they shouted!**

Why do you think the crowds were so full of happiness and praise for Jesus? What would you have done if you were in the crowd? Think again about what it would be like if Jesus arrived here today. What would you do to welcome Jesus if he arrived here today?

God made all of us, no matter where in the world that we come from. Jesus is in all of us. So every time we meet someone and we welcome them, we are welcoming Jesus. **Jesus is in all people, so we should treat all people with the respect, love and kindness that we would show to Jesus. We should try to welcome all people into our lives and treat them as we would like to be treated.**

Can you think of a time you welcomed someone else, into your home, your class, your game? What did you do? Or have you ever been welcomed by others? What did they do to make you feel special and welcome?

At this time when we're not meeting up with others, we can't welcome them as we normally would. But let's think about how we can still show our love for others and spread some joy, even when we can't meet them in person.

What do you think we could do? Perhaps you've done something already...

This week let's try to treat all people as we would treat Jesus. Let's do our best to show our love for others, share some hope and happiness and welcome each other in whatever way we can.

Activity 1

Print out the image of a palm leaf or the cross, whichever you prefer. At this time when we're not meeting up with others, we can't welcome them as we normally would. But let's think about how we can still show our love for others and spread some joy, even when we can't meet them in person. Write or draw your ideas on the palm leaf or the cross.

Activity 3

Once you have read the Gospel aloud. Read it again and act it out! This is a great way of remembering the text and discovering the important bits. You'll need someone to be Jesus pretending to ride on a donkey. Others will need to be the joyful crowds singing praise and shouting, 'Hosanna!' Perhaps you could use coats and jumpers to throw under the feet of 'Jesus'.

Activity 2

The song we sang at the start of the session –Sing Hosanna' is a joyful anthem. The refrain is sung over and over; it emulates the crowds as they welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem. There are lots of verses that help tell the story or capture the joy felt. Perhaps you could write your own verse on the palm leaf or cross.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z2fR9fUD5bM>

You could now sing, **Unless a grain of wheat** (Bernadette Farrell)

- Join in the chorus!

***Unless a grain of wheat shall fall upon the ground and die,
It remains a single grain, a grain with no life.***

***If we have died with him, then we shall live with him;
if we hold firm we shall reign with him.***

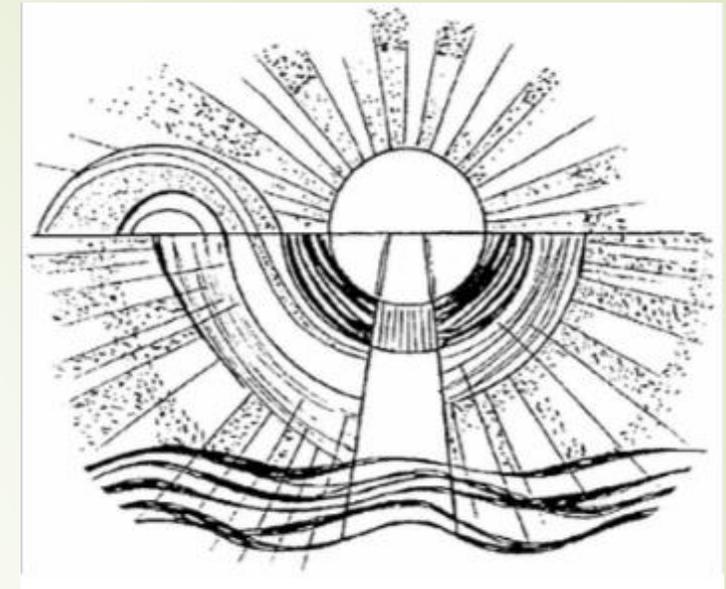
***If anyone serves me then they must follow me;
Wherever I am my servants will be.***

***Make your home in me as I make mine in you;
Those who remain in me bear much fruit.***

***If you remain in me and my word lives in you;
Then you will be my disciples.***

***Those who love me are loved by my Father;
We shall be with them and dwell in them.***

***Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you;
Peace which the world cannot give is my gift.***



Today's psalm is,

**'My God, my God,
why have you forsaken me?'**

Let us now bow our heads and say our closing prayer together...

Dear God,

**We welcome you into our lives
as the people of Jerusalem welcomed Jesus,
with respect, love and happiness.**

**Help us to remember that you are in all people
and to try to make them feel welcome.**

Amen.

