

# Virtual Family Prayer Bag



Dear Parent / Carer,  
here is an electronic version of our Prayer Bag  
for Palm Sunday

## Celebrating Palm Sunday

Please take some time over the next few days  
to come together, as a family, in prayer.



## A Message from Bishop David



My dear young friends,

When I was your age, a long time ago now, I always found Palm Sunday an exciting liturgy. We began outside the church and after a reading and prayers, processed into the church singing and waving our palm branches. It wasn't quite like the first Palm Sunday when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. But it was the next best thing! I do find myself wondering, what was it like for the first group of people who welcomed Jesus into the holy city? Maybe they had many expectations. Here was the King coming to his throne as the Messiah. Rather like the first days of a new government, maybe they expected real change and things could only get better. Maybe too, some of these people were apprehensive and thinking that the atmosphere wasn't entirely carnival. The leaders of Israel were watching on and it was clear that they were not happy. As we know, just a few days later, they used their power to do what they could to finish the teaching ministry of Jesus.

So what about us today? We too are living in challenging times. Maybe we want to sing and dance, praising God as we put our trust in him. Then again, perhaps it is not like that for us. I think there is an important lesson we can receive in our celebration of Palm Sunday. And that lesson is about praise and worship. When we look at different situations in our lives, we might think about the excitement of those occasions and the sense of celebration. For example, at a birthday party! Do we ever think we can praise God for the wonderful ways he has given us life, new life in baptism, and the promise of life in heaven with him for ever? On Palm Sunday, let us join the crowd in giving thanks and praise to Jesus. And if you go to church, even though there will be no processions this year because of the virus restrictions, you can still get a palm leaf to wave and help you celebrate.

God bless you all,

✠ David

Rt Revd Dr David J Oakley  
Bishop of Northampton



**Set aside some time in your day  
to gather together for prayer  
Make sure you are all sitting comfortably  
Light a candle**



**In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

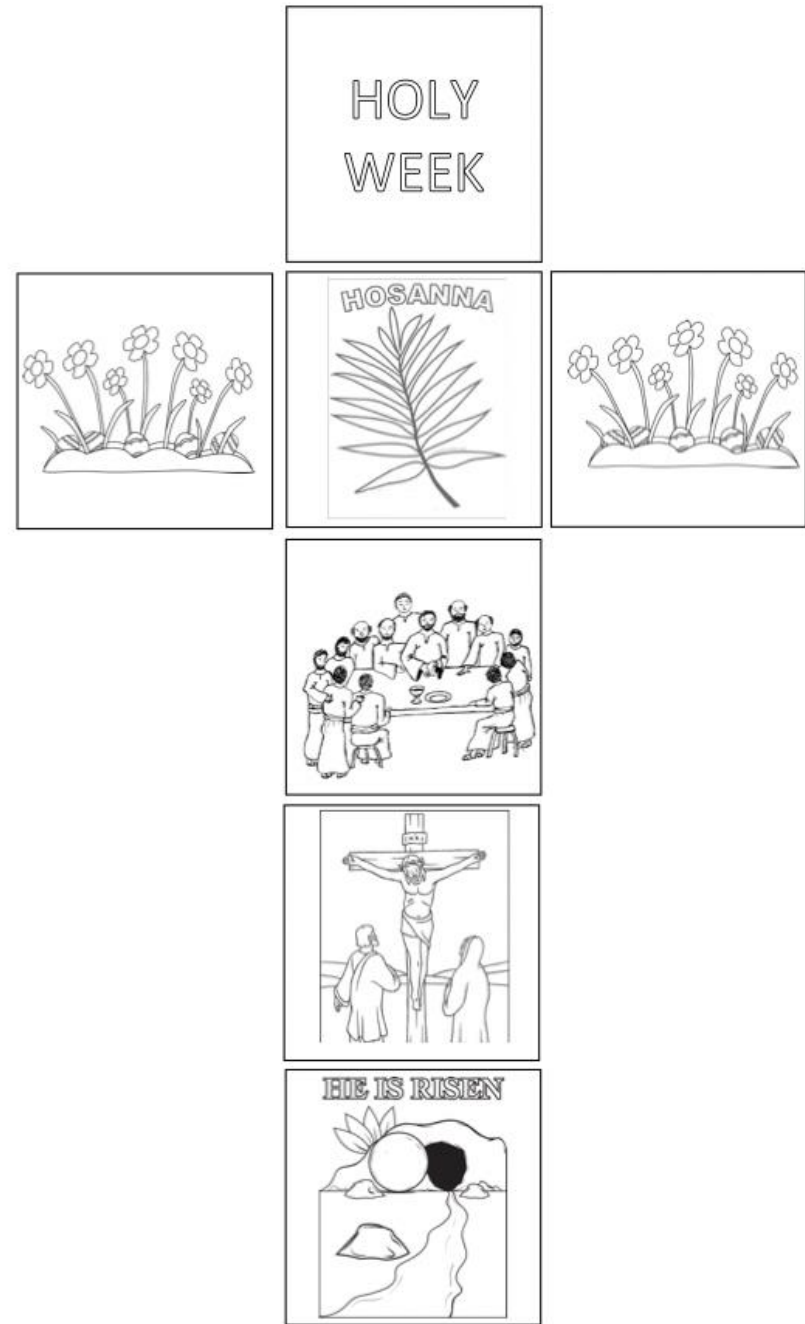
# Palm Sunday



**Palm Sunday**  
is the beginning of Holy Week  
when we think about Jesus  
death and resurrection.



**During Holy Week  
Christians all over the world  
follow Jesus' path  
during his last week on earth.**



**Jesus and his friends went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, a special Jewish festival.**





**Just before they arrived in Jerusalem  
Jesus told two of his disciples to:  
'Go into the village  
and you will find a donkey and its colt.  
Untie them and bring them to me.  
If anyone asks you what you are doing  
tell them they are for me  
and I will send them back as soon as I can'**



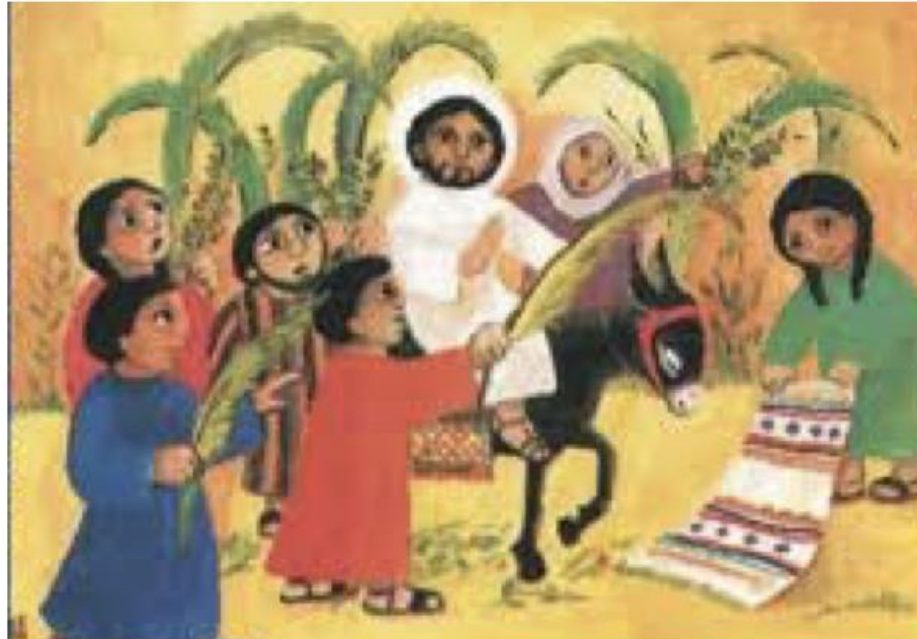


**The disciples brought the donkey back to Jesus.  
They threw their cloaks on its back  
and Jesus sat on it.  
Jesus rode into Jerusalem.**

Jesus did not ride into Jerusalem on a horse like a King going into battle. Instead Jesus rode on a donkey the animal of poor people. Jesus showed that he is a friend of the poor and that he came in peace.

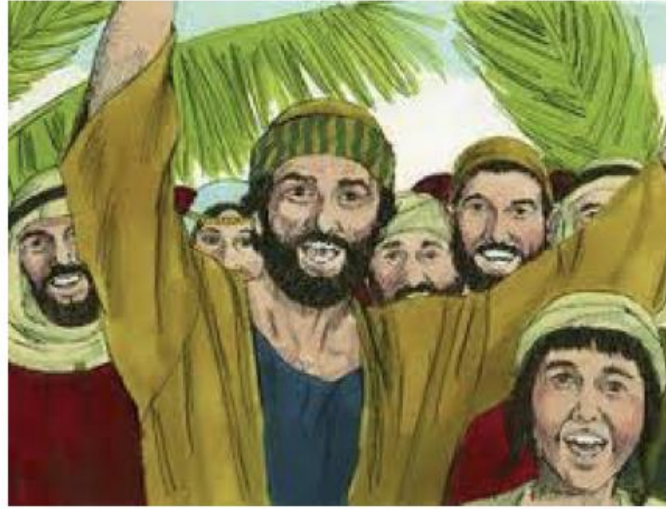


A huge crowd gathered to meet Jesus.  
Many people spread their cloaks on the ground.  
Others laid down palm branches  
which they had cut down from the trees.



Some people waved their palm branches.

**They cheered and shouted joyfully:  
'HOSANNA!' 'HOSANNA!' 'HOSANNA!'**



**Some of the people in the crowd were poor and sick.  
In Jesus they saw new hope for their lives.**

**They cried out 'HOSANNA!'  
which means 'PLEASE SAVE US'**

**They cheered and shouted gladly:  
'HOSANNA TO THE SON OF DAVID!'**



**Jesus is of the family of David and  
Jerusalem is David's city.  
People remembered a happy time  
when David was King.  
They know Jesus will bring them happiness.**

They cheered and shouted happily:  
'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES  
IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!'



**Jesus comes in the name of the Lord God.  
So the crowd, in welcoming Jesus  
is welcoming God.**



**A Reading from the Gospel according to Mark**

**Glory to you O Lord**



The disciples brought the colt to Jesus,  
and threw their garments on it;  
and he sat upon it.

Many spread their garments on the road,  
and others spread leafy branches  
which they had cut from the fields.

And those who went before  
and those who followed cried out,  
'Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is coming!  
Hosanna in the highest!'

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**



**Loving God**  
**as we celebrate this Palm Sunday**  
**help us to remember the day**  
**when crowds of people**  
**waved palm branches**  
**and cheered Jesus as their King.**  
**We thank you that Jesus died for us**  
**and that he rose again to new life.**  
**Help us to remember Jesus is our King**  
**and to sing his praise everyday.**  
**Amen**





We pray that we will always follow  
Jesus' way of love.

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord**

We pray for those who are sick.

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord**

We pray for those who have died.

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord**



**We pray for those who are unhappy.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord**

**We pray for those who feel left out  
and have no friends.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord**

**We pray for peace in our world.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord**



Let us cheer and shout joyfully for Jesus:

‘HOSANNA!’ ‘HOSANNA!’ ‘HOSANNA!’



Let us cheer and shout gladly for Jesus:

‘HOSANNA TO THE SON OF DAVID!’



Let us cheer and shout happily for Jesus:

‘BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES  
IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!’



**God our Father,  
We thank you for giving us Jesus  
as our friend.**

**Today, as we shout hosanna and sing his praises,  
we welcome Jesus into our hearts  
as our King and our Lord.**

**Amen**



How can we cheer  
someone up today?



How can we help  
someone who is sick?

How can we include  
someone who has  
been left out?

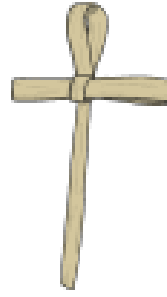
What can we do  
to bring happiness  
to others?

**At Mass on Palm Sunday  
we are given a Palm Cross.**



**It a symbol of Jesus' triumph and victory  
over death.**





**Would you like to make a palm cross to welcome Jesus on Palm Sunday? You could keep it as a reminder of how much Jesus loved us by dying on the cross of us.**

**Click on the link below**  
**[Palm Cross](#)**

