



Children's liturgy – Palm Sunday

Welcome: Today is called Palm Sunday, when we remember a time Jesus entered Jerusalem. We have these palms to remind us how the people welcomed Jesus and praised him as their Saviour and King. How do we welcome Jesus in our lives?

Opening prayer: Eternal God, may we always welcome Jesus into our hearts with joy. Help us to see Christ in all people and to make them feel welcome. We make this prayer to you through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gospel: Luke 19:28-40

After Jesus said this, he went on ahead of them to Jerusalem. As he came near Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, he sent two disciples ahead with these instructions: "Go to the village there ahead of you; as you go in, you will find a colt tied up that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If someone asks you why you are untying it, tell him that the Master needs it."

They went on their way and found everything just as Jesus had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying it?"

"The Master needs it," they answered, and they took the colt to Jesus. Then they threw their cloaks over the animal and helped Jesus get on. As he rode on, people spread their cloaks on the road.

When he came near Jerusalem, at the place where the road went down the Mount of Olives, the large crowd of his disciples began to thank God and praise him in loud voices for all the great things that they had seen: "God bless the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory to God!"

Then some of the Pharisees in the crowd spoke to Jesus. "Teacher," they said, "command your disciples to be quiet!"

Jesus answered, "I tell you that if they keep quiet, the stones themselves will start shouting."

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from the reading today?

Today is a special day when we hear two readings from Saint Luke's Gospel. The second one is called the Passion and tells the story of how Jesus was arrested, tried, crucified, died and was buried.

But we also heard another gospel story at the beginning of Mass. Can you remember what happened in that reading?

We heard how Jesus sent the disciples off to borrow a donkey, and to say that, “The Master needs it”, if they were asked where they were taking it. How do you think the disciples felt when everything happened just as Jesus said it would?

Then Jesus entered into Jerusalem on this donkey, while the people shouted their praises to God. How do you think Jesus must have felt to hear the people shouting his praises and welcoming him into the city?

Why do you think the disciples were so happy and joyful?

Can you think of a time when someone important or special came to visit you at home or at school? How did you welcome them? Did you sing a song, wave flags, shout and cheer?

What would you do to welcome Jesus if he arrived here today?

Jesus is in all of us, so every time we meet someone and welcome them, we are welcoming Jesus. We are asked by God to treat all people as we would like to be treated.

Can you think of a time when you have not treated someone as you would like to be treated? Have you ever stopped people from joining in your game, or sharing in your toys or in your group? Is that very welcoming?

So, this week how do you think we can make all the people we spend time with at home, at school and elsewhere feel welcome?

And because Jesus is part of every person, we need to also welcome people all over the world. People like Amie and Lombah in Sierra Leone who we have heard about during Lent. We can hold them in our hearts when we pray. And do what we can to make sure that all people have enough to eat.

And just like the disciples we need to live as Jesus asks us to. This might sometimes mean being a bit different to others, as we try to share God’s love and make the world a fairer place for all people. But let’s try to do our best. And if anyone asks us why we are doing this we can say “The Master needs it.”

Let’s try to welcome all people as we would welcome Jesus – with love, kindness and respect.

Activity

Colour in the illustration and write or draw on the back how they will make all people - including those around the world - feel welcome in the coming week. Act out Jesus’ triumphant arrival and/or the Passion story.

"Hosanna! Blessed is he who is coming in the name of the Lord!" Mark 11:9



Pin the tail on the donkey

Play a game of pin the tail on the donkey together. Once you've finished have a think about how Jesus entered Jerusalem. What might him coming on a donkey have made people think? How would you expect a king to travel? (You may also want to remind yourselves of Zechariah 9:9)

Family prayer cross

Make a large paper or cardboard cross and spend some time decorating it with your family's prayers. You may want to write or draw prayers on it for people you know as well as for situations affecting all our global family, such as hunger. You could also add newspaper cuttings or photographs. Leave the cross out in a communal area so you can continue to add to it during the week. We will come back to this cross on Easter Sunday.

