



SUNDAY 5th April 2020
Palm Sunday

Dear Friends,

For many of us, like myself, Holy Week is the most important and special time of the year, and yet this year, 2020, is going to be very different indeed. We continue to be in lockdown. The usual rhythm of Holy Week through our church services will not be quite the same. We have come through Lent and now we enter the final week of Christ's earthly life, from his joyful entry into Jerusalem with the cheering crowds on Palm Sunday, his betrayal on Maundy Thursday, Crucifixion on Good Friday and Resurrection on Easter Sunday, these commemorations will all feel very different this year.

For those of you who watched Bishop Christopher live streaming the Eucharist last Sunday you will doubtless remember that he spoke of Lent being a time when we give something up, and this Lent we have been called to give something up which is very precious indeed to us; being able to come together as God's family in our church and to walk the way of the cross together. Many of us, myself included, have found this to be a very great sacrifice indeed.

Over these past few days, I have been putting together some liturgical material for us to use in our homes during this Holy Week which will be sent out to you via Email shortly. There are services for Palm Sunday; Maundy Thursday; Good Friday and Easter Sunday. The material I have prepared begins with prayers for those who are living with the Covid-19 virus. You are free to use these prayers daily, or however you wish. Each of the services have at least one hymn, which you can say or sing. There is also an act of confession, prayers of intercession, readings and psalms. Some of the psalms can be sung to well-known hymn tunes. If you wish to sing them please do, but they can also be said. Please do not feel in anyway obliged to use any of these services: they are there if you wish to use them on your journey through Holy Week. You may like instead to see what is available online, in terms of live streaming of services, or you may wish to watch what is available on television.

I am afraid it has not been possible to print copies of this so that all those who do not have the facility of a computer can have a copy. We are not allowed to access the office and the photocopier during this time.

However, you choose to use this week, in these strange circumstances I pray that your journey with Christ to Jerusalem and beyond be fruitful, albeit different.

With assurance of my continued prayers, Fr Colin.

Remembering Those Who Need Our Prayers This Week

Shelley Lazlett, Geoff, Anna Chapman, Christopher, Richard Rundle, Martyn Lawlor, Hillary, Madison, Amy, Carmell, Christine, Ray Kent, Sandra Hewett, Spencer, Margaret Cavey, Ken Pask, John Haughton, Pete Martin, Anne Brown; Pete; Fr Beau Brandie; Jenny Pilling; Fr Charles

 We Remember Richard Field, Vic Brown, Rosemary Jameson, Barbara Green, Pauline Kent and Leslie Harman who have died recently and Elsie Slaughter, Jack Campton and June Bradley whose anniversaries fall at this time.



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