

Devotional Readings from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday

- Rather than hearing it read in church or by others, how long is it since you sat down and read the story of Jesus leading up to Easter for yourself? Or maybe with your friends or family?
 - Why not use this time of *“being & doing Church differently”* as a time for doing just that. Hopefully the following will assist you.
- ✓ Use any version of the bible you normally use. Or maybe use more than one to draw out more of the underlying text. (You can also find the bible for free on the internet, biblegateway.com is one site, of course there are others.)
 - ✓ Start by finding a quiet and/or comfortable place.
 - ✓ If helpful, you could light a candle as a sign of being in the presence of God.
 - ✓ Pray this simple prayer *“As I/We read your word, help us to hear from you”*
 - ✓ Read the passage maybe 2, or even 3 times.
 - ✓ Think about the questions. Share / Write or even Draw your responses.
 - ✓ Talk to God about how you are feeling (*this is part of prayer – your own words/thoughts are just right & acceptable for Him*) in response to your reading.
 - ✓ Listen to others (*if you are doing this as friends or as a family*) thoughts, feelings & prayers.
 - ✓ Finish each time with the Lord’s Prayer.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

5th April – Palm Sunday – Entrance to Jerusalem

Read: Matthew 21: 1-11

- ☁ Who do you think Jesus was?
- ☁ If Jesus was a King, why did he ride into Jerusalem on a donkey?
- ☁ If you were in the crowd that day, what would you shout at him?
- ☁ If you heard he was coming to Chippenham, what would you do?
- ☁ If he rode into Chippenham today, what would you shout?

6th April – Monday – Turning the Tables

Read: Matthew 21: 12-17

- ☁ Jesus was angry at systems which sought to profit from religion.
Was he right to be so?
- ☁ What makes you angry about the world today?
- ☁ What do you think Jesus would say about our society?

7th April – Tuesday – Greatest Commandment

Read: Matthew 22: 34-40

- ☁ During this covid19 crisis, the need to love our neighbours is more urgent than ever. Whose responsibility is it to seek & support the vulnerable?
- ☁ What are you doing to show love to your neighbours?
- ☁ When we go back to our “normal” routines, is there something you are doing now, or have heard about, that you could continue to do differently to show love for God and for your neighbour?

8th April – Wednesday – Plots & Anointing

Read: Matthew 26: 1-13

- ☁ Jesus knew what was coming. Do you think that helped him to understand it?
- ☁ The unnamed woman did what she could to show love and worship to Jesus. Was it enough? How would you have shown it?
- ☁ What could you do or say today, to show Jesus how you feel about him?

9th April – Thursday – Last Supper

Read: Matthew 26: 20-30

- ☁ We can't gather together & share around His table at the moment. So how can you bring something of the body of Christ's fellowship into your home today?
- ☁ Who would you normally be with this week? Can you pray for their needs? Or even offer to meet some of them even in the current climate?

10th April – Good Friday – The Crucifixion

Read: Matthew 27: 32-37 & 45-50

- ☁ The crucifixion looks like a defeat. But Jesus' willingness to suffer & die ends being the greatest victory! Wow. DO you still see it as the life & world changing events that they are?
- ☁ Looking back at difficult times in your life. Can you see how God has brought something new out of those hard or challenging times?

Saturday – Guard at the Tomb

Read: Matthew 27: 62-66

- ☁ Easter Saturday is always a time of waiting between the sadness & death of Good Friday & (in hindsight) the Resurrection Joy of Easter Day! Do we jump too quickly into Easter Day without resting in the time between?
- ☁ What are you waiting for? How about talking to God about it?

Easter Sunday – Jesus is Risen! Alleluia!

Read: Matthew 28: 1-10

- ☁ The resurrection of Jesus is miraculous & very well attested by many contemporary & non “*christian*” witnesses. Did you know that? If not explore some...
- ☁ Jesus says “*Do not be afraid*”. Easier said than done you may say? Pray for any fears you have to be lifted & for the joy of Easter to come over you once more.