

Palm Sunday Prayer for Families 2021

Acknowledgement of Land

As we gather in God's presence, let us connect our feet to the ground and remind us of the place that we are praying on. As we enter stillness, and open our hearts, we acknowledge the wisdom of the First Nations Peoples of this place, and their continued spiritual connection and relationship to place.

Context of Palm Sunday

During Lent, we have been preparing our hearts to celebrate Easter. On Palm Sunday we join Christ as he enters Jerusalem. In the coming days, we will relive the mystery of his death and resurrection. By joining ourselves to Christ, God's grace will lift us up and rescue us.



Figure 1 Entry of Christ into Jerusalem ([Einzug Christi in Jerusalem](#))

Scripture

A reading from Gospel of Mark

[Mark 11: 1-11]

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Then they entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection – Kathy Fleming, Consultant Formation CES Cairns

In contrast to the arrival of royalty or a conquering hero of the ancient world, riding into town in a regal chariot or on the back of a stately stallion with legions of soldiers accompanying him in the victory procession, Jesus enters the royal city on a simple working animal, a donkey and his companions accompanied him waving palm branches. The scene depicted is a crowd cheering 'Hosanna' (meaning save us, grant us salvation). Those who knew of the healing, the miracles, the understanding and the hope that came from knowing Jesus all gathered in celebration. It is this same crowd who we know rally once again in a few short days, once again shouting to Jesus; this time instead he hears 'Crucify him! Crucify him!' Fr Richard Leonard reminds us that 'in the journey of faith we should always be on our guard against being part of a manipulated crowd. The unchecked enthusiasms of a crowd can carry us away to places, people or things we would not ordinarily choose and should not embrace'. So what's the remedy to being manipulated, to regaining a sense of what really matters; to standing up against the crowd for the values we know are right? Jesus' procession into Jerusalem is not meant to be an historical pageant. It is an invitation to reflect on our own lives and speak to our journey of faith. Let us walk forward together as a community of faith in solidarity with the abandoned and oppressed; let our hearts seek justice and mercy, peace and freedom.

Prayer

Christ Jesus,

show us how to welcome you into our lives as you were welcomed into Jerusalem.

As we prepare for the Easter Season, may we never be blind or deaf to your presence or turn away from those who need to be seen or heard.

May we be faithful disciples of Jesus and radiant witnesses to the people of the Diocese of Cairns. Amen

Call to Action

- Place your palm cross or branch beside your bed during the days of Holy Week, and continue to talk together about what will happen on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.
- Why not trying to make your own [Palm Cross](#). You could Find a coconut leaf and prepare your own Palm Sunday cross in preparation for prayer or take a green branch from your garden. Gather the family together and, with each person holding coconut leaf cross or branch, pray together. If using a coconut leaf, click [here](#) for instructions.
- Check out the readings and reflections for Palm Sunday at Australian Catholics [here](#).



Figure 2 'Hosanna in the highest. Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!' [Accessed here](#).