



**Roman Catholic
Diocese of Middlesbrough
Adult Formation**



**Journeying towards Jerusalem
2024
24th March, Palm Sunday
To
31st March, Easter Day**

Towards Jerusalem

Our Journey, like our Lord's, begins in earnest on Palm Sunday. Today we commemorate what looked like our Blessed Lord's triumphant entry in Jerusalem.

A short passage from the Gospel of Mark will be proclaimed for us which tells us of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. And so we begin our journey towards the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord.

During each day you are invited to read the Gospel passage provided and reflect on it, accepting God's invitation to come closer to him.

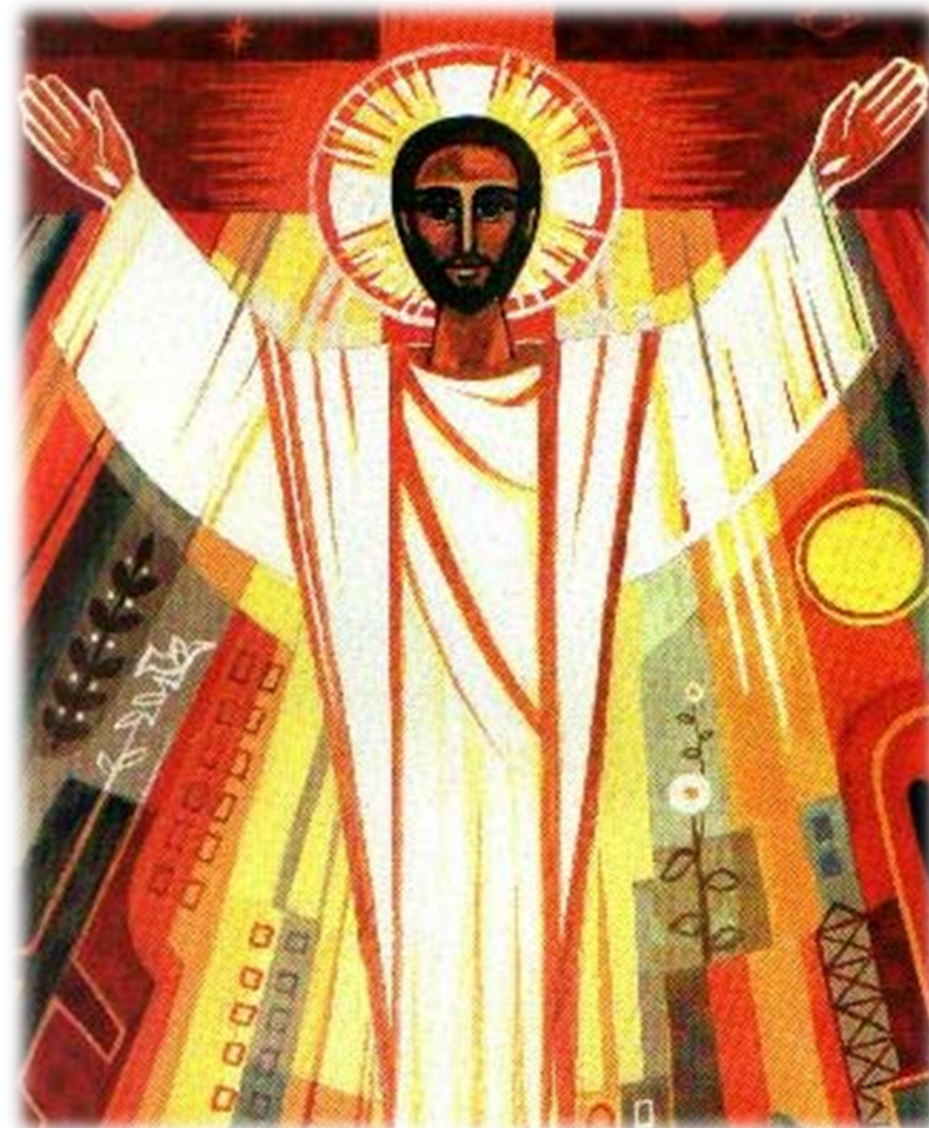
Some of the Bible texts are provided but you will need your Bible for the Passion that is read on Palm Sunday and Good Friday.

Depending on how much time you have, you should give at least fifteen minutes each day. Find a time of the day suitable for you and that fits-in with family commitments but don't leave things until you are too tired.

If we are generous with our time God will find us and come to dwell in us. Let's be bold in our journey knowing that Christ is walking with us.

Have a prayerful and blessed Holy Week

Easter Sunday—He is Risen! Gospel of John 20:1-9



It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said and 'we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

Happy Easter!!

Holy Saturday

We wait in hope
We are silent and still

Each Day begin by...

- ◆ Quietening yourself, relaxing and becoming aware of God's presence
- ◆ Light a candle if you have one to remind you that Christ is our light
- ◆ Sign yourself with the sign of the cross: + In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. This is the beginning of your prayer time.
- ◆ Spend a few minutes enjoying the silence. You are becoming aware of God's presence. Invite the Holy Spirit into your heart and mind. Be at ease.
- ◆ You may wish to begin with the following prayer: I come into your presence Lord. I want to hear what you have to say to me as I journey with you towards Jerusalem. May you be ever more present to me and to all those who seek you. Amen.
- ◆ Read the Gospel passage that is either printed below or has the Bible reference.
- ◆ Pause for a minute or two after reading. Is there a word or sentence that has resonated with you? If so mull it over a little. If not, just hold yourself still for a minute.
- ◆ Read the passage again, slowly. Let each word, each line, each sentence find a home in you. Listen, carefully.
- ◆ Is there any situation or person that you are moved to pray about?
- ◆ Is there a situation in your own life that you want to bring to God, either in thanksgiving or in need of help. Bring all of your "baggage" Jesus wants to bless you, to heal you, to come closer to you.
- ◆ Bring all your prayers together in the words that Jesus taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven... follow with one Hail Mary and Glory Be
- ◆ Conclude your prayer time just as you began it, with the sign of the Cross remembering to thank God for whatever you have received from him during this time.





Palm Sunday—Entrance into Jerusalem—St Mark 11:1-10

When they were approaching Jerusalem, in sight of Bethphage and Bethany, close by the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, 'Go off to the village facing you, and as soon as you enter it you will find a tethered colt that no one has yet ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone says to you "what are you doing?" say, "The Master needs it and will send it back here directly." They went off and found a colt tethered near a door in an open street. As they untied it, some men standing there said "What are you doing, untying that colt?' They gave the answer Jesus had told them, and the men let them go. Then they took the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on its back, and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, others greenery which they had cut in the fields. And those who went in front and those who followed were all shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessing on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest heavens!'

You may also wish to read the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ—Mark 14:1-15::47

Good Friday—The passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 18:1-19:42

Read the account of our Lord's passion from your Bible or Missal.

Spend time praying with the text. Below are some images to help you.



Holy Thursday—The Gospel of John 13:1-15

It was before the festival of the Passover, and Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to pass from this world to the Father. He had always loved those who were his in the world, but now he showed how perfect he was.

They were at supper, and the devil; had already put it into the mind of Judas Iscariot son of Simon, to betray him. Jesus knew that the Father had put everything into his hands, and that he had come from God and was returning to God, and he got up from table, removed his outer garment and, taking a towel, wrapped it round his waist; he then poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel he was wearing.



He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus answered, 'At the moment you do not understand.' 'Never!' said Peter 'You shall never wash my feet.' Jesus replied, 'If I do not wash you, you can have nothing in common with me. 'Then, Lord,' said Simon Peter 'not only my feet, but my hands and my head as well!' Jesus said, 'No one who has taken a bath needs washing, he is clean all over. You too are clean, though not all of you are.' he knew who was going to betray him, that was why he said, 'though not all of you are.'

When he had washed their feet and put on his clothes again he went back to the table. 'Do you understand' he said 'what I have done to you? You call me Master and Lord, and rightly; so I am. If I then, the Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you should wash each other's feet. I have given you an example so that you may copy what I have done to you.'



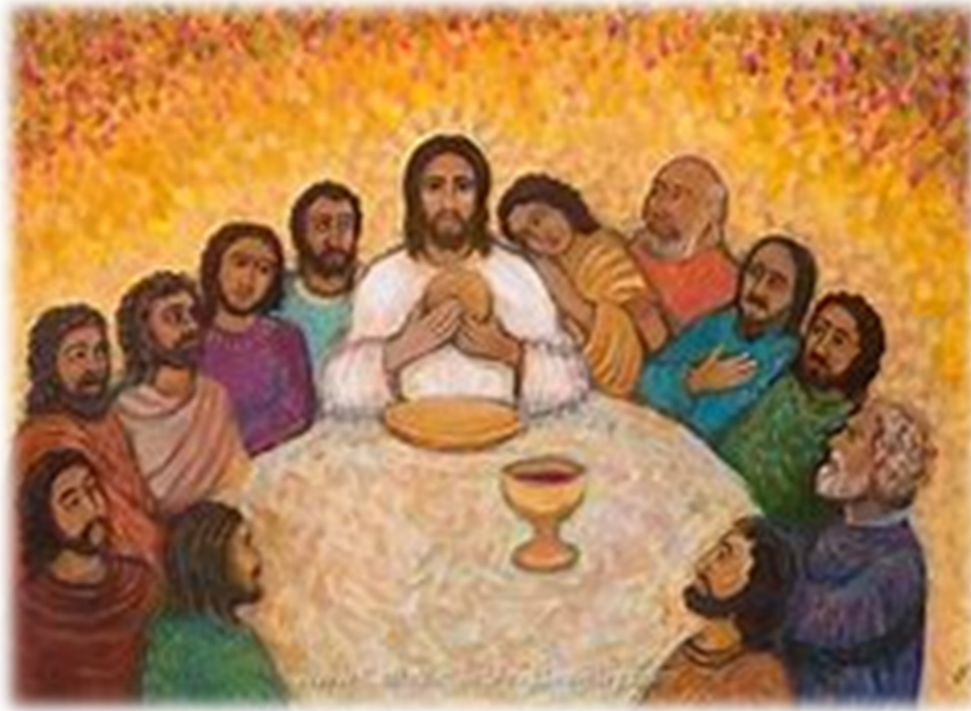
Monday of Holy Week—The Gospel of John 12:1-11

Six days before the Passover, Jesus went into Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom he had raised from the dead. They gave a dinner for him there; Martha waited on them and Lazarus was among those at table. Mary brought in a pound of very costly ointment, pure nard, and with it anointed the feet of Jesus, wiping them with her hair; the house was full of the scent of the ointment. Then Judas Iscariot—one of his disciples, the man who was to betray him—said, 'Why wasn't this ointment sold for three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor?' He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he was in charge of the common fund and used to help himself to the contributions. So Jesus said, 'Leave her alone; she had to keep this scent for the day of my burial. You have the poor with you always, you will not always have me.'

Meanwhile a large number of Jews heard that he was there and came not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazarus whom he had raised from the dead. Then the chief priests decided to kill Lazarus as well, since it was on his account that many of the Jews were leaving them and believing in Jesus.

Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations.





Tuesday of Holy Week– The Gospel of John 13:21-33, 36-38

While at supper with his disciples, Jesus was troubled in spirit and declared, 'I tell you most solemnly, one of you will betray me.' The disciples looked at one another, wondering which he meant. The disciple Jesus loved was reclining next to Jesus; Simon Peter signed to him and said, 'Ask who it is he means', so leaning back on Jesus' breast he said, 'Who is it, Lord?' 'It is the one' replied Jesus 'to whom I give the piece of bread that I shall dip in the dish.' He dipped the piece of bread and gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. At that instant, AFTER Judas had taken the bread, Satan entered him. Jesus then said, 'What you are going to do, do quickly.' None of the others at table understood the reason he said this. Since Judas had charge of the common fund, some of them thought Jesus was telling him, 'Buy what we need for the festival', or telling him to give something to the poor. As soon as Judas had taken the piece of bread he went out. Night had fallen.

When he had gone Jesus said: 'Now has the Son of Man been glorified, and in him God has been glorified. If God has been glorified in him, God will in turn glorify himself, and will glorify him very soon. My little children. I shall not be with you much longer. You will look for me, and, as I told the Jews, where I am going, you cannot come.'

Simon Peter said, 'Lord, where are you going?' Jesus replied, 'Where I am going you cannot follow me now; you will follow me later.' Peter said to him, 'Why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.' 'Lay down your life for me?' answered Jesus. 'I tell you most solemnly, before the cock crows you will have disowned me three times.'

Wednesday of Holy Week— The Gospel of Matthew 26:14-25

One of the Twelve, the man called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said; 'What are you prepared to give me if I hand him over to you?' They paid him thirty silver pieces, and from that moment he looked for an opportunity to betray him.



Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus to say, 'Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the passover?' 'Go to so and so in the city' he replied 'and say to him, "The Master says; My time is near. It is at your house that I am keeping Passover with my disciples." The disciples did what Jesus told them and prepared the Passover.

When evening came he was at table with the twelve disciples. And while they were eating he said, 'I tell you solemnly, one of you is about to betray me.' They were greatly distressed and started asking him in turn, 'Not I, Lord, surely?' He answered, 'Someone who has dipped his hand into the dish with me, will betray me. The Son of Man is going to his fate, as the scriptures say he will, but alas for that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! Better for that man if he had never been born!' Judas, who was to betray him, asked in his turn, 'Not I, Rabbi surely?' 'They are your own words' Jesus answered.