

Use your Palm Cross to reflect upon the events of Holy Week taken from Mark's Gospel

Palm Sunday

Turn the cross on its side to make a X, like a a kiss, as we remember the love that Jesus showed for us as he entered Jerusalem knowing he was heading to his death.

On this day: Jesus enters Jerusalem. ([Mark 11:1-11](#))

Jesus enters Jerusalem riding on a colt as the crowd put cloaks and palm branches on the road and cry out for Jesus. Jesus then goes to the Temple, looks around, and returns to Bethany where he will stay during this week.

Let us reflect and pray this week on God's love for us shown to us by his son, Jesus.

Holy Monday

Focus on the top edge of the cross as we think of the Temple being the pinnacle of religious life in Jesus' day.

On this day: Jesus cleanses the Temple, driving out merchants and money changers. ([Mark 11:15-19](#))

When Jesus arrives in Jerusalem, he drives out those who were buying and selling – overturning the tables of the money changers and dove sellers. Jesus defends his actions by quoting the Old Testament (Isaiah 56:70), saying the people have made the temple a den of robbers and it was no longer a place of prayer.

Let us reflect and pray this week on the times our actions distort God's perfect will for our lives.

Holy Tuesday

Focus on the righthand tip of the cross as we think about those on the edge of society, the widow, the poor, the refugee, the <<insert those on your mind at this time>>.

On this day: Jesus teaches in the Temple and delivers the Olivet Discourse. ([Mark 11:27-33](#), [12.13-44](#))

At the Temple the religious authorities try to trick Jesus with various questions. Jesus answers them wisely, leaving the authorities speechless, and warns the people about the way the scribes and religious leaders sought honour for themselves and to take advantage of widows.

Let us reflect and pray this week on how we can bring about God's justice in this world, even only our small corner of it.

Holy Wednesday

Focus on the lefthand tip of the cross, as we think about those in power, those who use power for good and those who abuse it.

On this day: Judas Iscariot plots to betray Jesus. ([Mark 14:10-11](#))

Just two verses in this Holy Week account, yet they are as powerful as it gets... 'he went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them and they were delighted'. Power, Greed, Betrayal.

Let us reflect and pray this week upon what may be our 'thirty pieces of silver'? How might we betray Jesus, by our thoughts, words or actions.

Maundy Thursday

Focus on the bottom tip of the cross, Maundy Thursday takes from high to low, from the high point of a Remembrance Meal, to the low point of betrayal, arrest and a fake trial.

On this day: Jesus celebrates the Passover meal with his disciples (the Last Supper), and is betrayed then arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane. ([Mark 14:12-52](#)).

Jesus celebrates the Jewish festival of Passover with his disciples for his last meal with them. At this he institutes what we call Holy Communion, a way to help us to remember him. Jesus predicts that Peter will deny him and goes to Gethsemane to pray. He is let down by his disciples who fall asleep. Jesus is arrested and put on trial in which the authorities seek to find charges against him. Jesus stands firm and Peter crumbles after denying knowing Jesus three times.

Let us reflect and pray this week on how we remember Jesus in our lives and think on those in this world who are betrayed and falsely accused.

Good Friday

Focus on the whole of the cross.

On this day: Jesus is tried before Pilate and crucified.

([Mark 15:1-47](#)).

One, if not the best, response to this was written in 1707 by Issac Watts when he was challenged by his father (who was the church minister) to write a hymn for church after Isaac had complained about the quality of the hymns they sung. In response he wrote [When I survey the wondrous Cross](#).

Let us reflect and pray on these words: When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the Prince of glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.