

# Pew Sheet 5<sup>th</sup> April

## Parish of Marown, Foxdale & Baldwin

### Palm Sunday and Holy Week

We are at the beginning of the most sacred week in our Church year. We celebrate Jesus entry into Jerusalem, the crowds cheering and waving their palm branches. This rapturous reception soon turned sour and by Friday Jesus would die on the cross. **Doug chalk has written an excellent piece about Palm Sunday which is available to read on our parish website ([marownchurch.im](http://marownchurch.im))** There is also lots to read and inspire you via our [Facebook page](#) and the latest edition of the parish magazine will be available on-line shortly, don't forget to take a look.

However, Jesus had much still to say and teach in those final days of his earthly life. We can join in with those events through our Bible readings for this week which I will add below. I suggest that you read them slowly, several times each and make a mental note of any words that stand out to you then pray about the passage and those words or thoughts that have come into your mind. This way of reading scripture helps to fully immerse ourselves in what is being said or told.

As the effects of C-19 continue to unfold and influence us all in different ways these experiences have been likened to living a prolonged 'Holy Saturday' or Easter Eve. It is as if we are in a state between the sorrow of death and the hope of joyful new life. This is what Christians experience as we wait with Jesus as he lay in the tomb, we live between the anguish of Good Friday and the joy of Easter Day. But we know the joy of the resurrection so the waiting is bearable, so it will be as we wait for the end of the pandemic, it will come, new life will dawn.

At the moment we have much in common with Christians of the Early Church, they could hold no public gatherings or worship but were forced inside to offer their prayers behind closed doors. They too did so for fear of death. During this time their faith grew so that when they could venture back outside the Gospel began to flourish and spread. Their time of isolation had deepened their belief and commitment to Christ. May it be so with us as we await the day when we can freely roam again, and may we be eager to share with others how Christ sustained and strengthened us during this crisis.

### Beatitudes for a global pandemic

Blessed are those who stay indoors for they have protected others.

Blessed are the unemployed and the self-employed, for their need of God is great.

Blessed are the corner shopkeepers, for they are the purveyors of scarce things.

Blessed are the delivery drivers and the postal workers, for they are the bringers of essential things.

Blessed are the hospital workers; the ambulance crews, the doctors, the nurses, the care assistants, and the cleaners, for they stand between us and the grave, and the Kingdom of Heaven is surely theirs.

Blessed are the checkout workers, for they have patience and fortitude in the face of overwork and frustration.

Blessed are the refuse collectors, for they will see God despite the mountains of waste.

Blessed are the teachers, for they remain steadfast and constant in disturbing times.

Blessed are the church workers; the deacons, priests and bishops, for they are a comforting presence in a hurting world as they continue to signpost towards God.

Blessed are the single parents, for they are coping alone with their responsibilities and there is no respite.

Blessed are those who are alone, for they are children of God and with Him they will never be lonely.

Blessed are the bereaved, for whom the worst has already happened. They shall be comforted.

Blessed are those who are isolated with their abusers, for one day – we pray - they will know safety.

Blessed are all during this time who have pure hearts; all who still hunger and thirst for justice; all who work for peace and who model mercy. May you know comfort. May you know calm. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all. Amen.

<http://thewomanfredi.blogspot.com/2020/03/beatitudes-for-global-pandemic.html>

## Our Bible readings for this Holy Week.....

<b>Palm Sunday</b>	Matthew 21 v 1-11
<b>Monday of Holy Week</b>	John 12 v 1-11
<b>Tuesday of Holy Week</b>	John 12 v 20-36
<b>Wednesday of Holy Week</b>	John 13 v 21-32
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	John 13 v 1-17 & 31b-35
<b>Good Friday</b>	John 18 v 1- 19 v 42
<b>Easter Eve</b>	Matthew 27 v 57-66

## Let us hold in prayer our brothers and sisters know to be in need of God's comfort.....

Paul Lemaire, Jenny Ingham, Fleet & Joan Simpson, Bert Winckle, Tanya Thompson, Maud Dawson, Richard Beaumont, Mary Stevenson, Joan Brain, Sally Lister, Eddie Corkill, Wilf Corkish, Les Edwards, Pat Killip, Dee & Mark Whitlock & Elaine Quayle. RIP Gordon Brown

## During the week ahead...

- Bishop Peter will be offering devotional and meditative material for every day in Holy Week (**Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday inclusive**), on the **diocesan website (www.sodorandman.im)** at **10.00 each morning** and available thereafter throughout the day.
- As part of his Holy Week meditations on **Maundy Thursday at 10am** Bishop Peter will be leading a Renewal of Vows service, as clergy and lay ministers to come together (in spirit) to rededicate themselves to serving Christ. A written order of service will be published on the website so everyone can follow the service from their own homes and respond to the Bishop's questions. There will be an opportunity for all baptised people to recommit themselves to Christ, so it is a service for everyone.
- For additional Holy Week material and resources please do visit the Church of England website.
- **Judith Ley's Sunday morning 9.30am broadcast on Manx Radio- 'At Your Service'** continues. It includes music, scripture, prayers and reflections.
- The BBC will also be showing live worship on Palm Sunday and Easter Day so please do check your TV schedule.
- **Palm Sunday 11am Isle of Man Call to Prayer**, Christians across our island are asked to stop and pray especially for those people affected by the corona virus. This is a time of open prayer, no set length of time to pray but please include the following groups:
  - Frontline staff and their health
  - Maintaining critical supplies
  - For the island to continue coming together
  - For the end of the virus
  - Our older generation
  - The vulnerable
  - Protection of young people
  - For businesses

YouTube has a lovely recording of local (Peel) organist Gareth Moore playing on a piano that old hymn 'It is well with my soul'. The recording is accompanied by some superb island photography, a lot around Peel. Just paste the following link into your browser: [https://youtu.be/bfQprxx\\_Qak](https://youtu.be/bfQprxx_Qak)

A further musical reflection, especially for those missing choral church worship, here is a live recording of the Choir of Peel Cathedral singing Do Not Be Afraid – Stopford along with a few reflective pictures: <https://youtu.be/MbSbOhrzMQk>