

Reflections for 28th March 2021

Palm Sunday

Palms and Crosses

This Sunday we would usually be distributing palm crosses in church, as we remember the story of crowds cutting branches to spread on the road as they welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem, and as we turn our thoughts to the way of the cross.

Perhaps you have a palm cross at home, or some other cross that you could keep in view as a reminder to help you reflect on the meaning of the cross during this week.

As we look at the sign of the cross, the vertical part of the cross can remind us that by it we are brought back together with God. The good news is that any possible barrier between us and God has been broken down and taken away through what Jesus has done on the cross.

The horizontal part of the cross can remind us that, at the same time as we are brought back together with God, so we are brought back together with one another. There is no end to the ways that we can separate people out into different groups and categories, but the good news about God's love for us in Jesus draws us all together.

And, if we put the two parts of the cross together, it can remind us of the 'plus' sign in maths, the sign for adding things, and bringing things together. It is the sign, above all, for something positive.

In the coming days of this Holy Week, we can take to heart anew this positive sign of God's love, which can remind us of the promise we read in the New Testament, that God is 'reconciling' all things in Jesus Christ, bringing everything back together.

Revd John Waller

Lord Jesus Christ,
you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant,
and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation:
give us the mind to follow you
and to proclaim you as Lord and King,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Bible readings: Isaiah 50. 4-9a; Philippians 2. 5-11; Mark chapter 14 and 15

Story: 'The Great Parade' (based on the gospel stories of the entry into Jerusalem)