

Palm Sunday

We are all looking forward to the time when we can make some longer journeys. Now, we need to stay close to home to keep ourselves and other people healthy. But have you thought about your whole life as a journey? A journey from the beginning of your life through to the time when you are very old. That's the 'big journey' where Jesus walks by our side all the time helping us to know him more and more and leading us to be with him forever. Jesus can do this by the journey of his own life on earth and by his special journey during Holy Week which begins this Sunday, Palm Sunday.

Jesus journeyed to Jerusalem and the people who lived there welcomed him by waving Palm branches and singing. They knew he was special, and they sung and shouted, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" That's why we get palms and branches and act out this event at the start of Mass on Palm Sunday each year. We welcome Jesus into our towns, schools and homes. We welcome Jesus into our lives. Perhaps you can do this with your family at home? Why not also read the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 21, verses 1-11?

The story continues and we know that, because some people turned against Jesus, he was put on trial and he had to suffer and to die. But on the third day he rose again from the dead to be with us forever. That is what we will celebrate on Easter Sunday. More about that next week. Jesus made this journey, a difficult one for him, so that he could be with us on our big life journey. This big life journey is a great joyful adventure but not always easy. There are some hard times – like now. But Jesus is with us, he knows what the journey is like and we can talk to him in prayer and he will give us the strength and courage for things we must do right now.

Take a moment this Sunday or this week to think about the journey Jesus made so that he could be with us each moment of each day. He did this because he loves us. Ask Jesus to be with you, your family, friends and teachers. Ask him to be with those who are not very well and those that are working hard to help them and those who must work to keep things going for the rest of us. Wave a branch, if you can, and say, "welcome Jesus" and "help those who help me".

With all my best wishes and prayers,

Canon David

