

Thought for the week
5th April,
2020 Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
“A Journey from Despair to Hope

I have always loved the liturgies of Holy Week. In so many different ways, the services, from Palm Sunday to the Easter Vigil, emphasise and bring to life the Gospel narrative. They can help us to feel that, together, we are “taking part” in and walking more nearly with Jesus during those days. The joyful celebration of the resurrection a week from today then becomes so much more of a climax and a celebration that we join.

This year it will be all so different.

We can share the richness of these days by following the readings (they are free online at www.universalis.com) and, if we have a missal at home, the prayers and rituals.

There is a real message for this year in that Holy Week story. The disciples moved from a normal life (albeit changed by their relationships with Jesus), with a real hope for a better future, to a time of despair and what seemed to them an irredeemable disaster. Jesus’ mother, Peter, John, Andrew, Martha, Mary and those others who cheered as he rode into Jerusalem truly feel our sense of desolation and hopelessness. We can turn to them in our prayers for inspiration and intercession.

The Resurrection brought an end to that despair. There will be an end to the Corona Virus crisis for us; however, life will be changed – for some significantly – and we will not look on some things in the same light as we did before. It was the same for Jesus’ followers as the ecstasy of Easter, which transformed their lives, brought them to the challenges and difficulties of building the Christ’s Church on earth.

We too, even during today’s difficulties, are called to continue that work of Church building and to live out our lives in witness to the Gospel.

May following Christ’s journey this Holy Week strengthen and be an inspiration for the unique calling He has for each one of us.

A Parishioner