

**Thought for the week**  
**14<sup>th</sup> April 2019**  
**Palm Sunday**

As we journey this week with Jesus from Palm Sunday through Holy Week to Good Friday and beyond, to the joy of the Resurrection, perhaps we can imagine ourselves caught up with the excitement of the crowd's cries of blessings, hosanna, peace and glory. We wave our palms and really believe what we say.

That same crowd proves to be fickle, and a few days later is baying for blood with the words "*Crucify him!*" Now where do we stand in our imagination? All too easily we can find ourselves swept along with the crowd, going with the flow, not daring to speak out for the Jesus we claim to follow.

One of my favourite sayings of the Venerable Mary Ward is that we should "*be as we appear and appear as we are*". To unpack this a little: it seems to mean that truth and integrity should be our default disposition, regardless of what others may think or say of us; that we should be true to our best self; that our principles should not melt away when they are challenged or confronted by evil; that what you see should be what you get.

As this week progresses, and Peter betrays Jesus, he is crippled by fear, unable to "*be as he appears, and appear as he is*". He knows that the cost of being true to his best self is simply too high for him.

I think it is very difficult for us to make the imaginative leap into Peter's shoes – after all, we know how the story continues. So perhaps one of the things we might do during this Holy Week is to try to imagine ourselves into one of the Gospel scenes and ask for the grace of integrity not only for this heightened and emotional time, but also for the very ordinariness of our daily lives.

Let us ask to "*be as we appear and appear as we are*".