

Please pray for:

Bishop Steve and Lorraine, Ministry Educator– Michael Godfrey, CYF Educator - John Graveston, the Diocesan office staff and Diocesan Council.

For those whose anniversaries fall at this time.

Pray for the aftermath of the Christchurch terrorist attacks.

Those who are sick: Agnes, Ashley, Bill, Bridget, Brian, Chris, Cruz and Mason, Deborah, Denise, Dorothy & Dick, Dorothy H, Ellen, Eric, Gerald, Graham, Helen, Jan Y, Jean V, Jesse Bessant, Jim L, Keith M, Les, Louise, Lysiane, Marilyn, Margaret, Mark S, Murray, Pat G, Peggy, Philip, Ross, Sarah, Sharron M, Stephen, Stewart Tim, Ruby, Val S, Yvonne B, Claire & Sue J

Worship Schedule

Brighton 10.30a.m. (1st & 3rd Sundays)

Green Island 10.30a.m. 2nd & 4th Sundays

Mornington 9.30a.m.

St Kilda 11a.m. (Morning tea served from 10.15a.m.)

Midweek service

Wednesday, 1pm @ Holy Cross

Southern Coastal Deanery

St Margaret's 4 Seaview Road, Brighton - St Mark's 27 Shand St, GI

St Mary's 3 Whitby St, Mornington

Holy Cross 17 Ajax St. St Kilda

Southern Coastal Deanery web page: scd.org.nz

Regional Dean: Jan Clark 455-6032 or 027 3515171

janclark8260@gmail.com

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Regional Dean's Warden: Catherine Caley 0211432974

Green Island Warden: Pam Brown 488-1909

Mornington Warden: Alyson Manning 455-0163

St Kilda Warden:

Southern Coastal Deanery

14th April, 2019

Palm Sunday

Rejoicing and calamity are the two poles that frame the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem, unleashing a power that continues reverberating in our day and time. It would appear that the rejoicing is quickly left behind as the destructive powers of the cross have their way with Jesus. But, there is another source of power at work, evidenced in the joy of the crowds who greet Jesus, laying their cloaks before him as he goes. It is a joy that will not be squelched, becoming a source of power for all who, as Paul reminds us, take on the mind of Christ.

Luke 19:28–40 On the surface, only naiveté or fool heartedness would have inspired disciples to praise God as Jesus makes his entry into Jerusalem. Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem puts a shiver up our spines because it reminds and unnerves us about how overwhelming and hopeless life can appear. The early disciples of Jesus and the gathered communities of Luke's gospel have the same personal anxieties people of every age face: health, relationships, loss.

They also experience in no uncertain terms the destructive power of Roman empire, domination and the ways it co-opts religious leaders for its purposes. Crosses litter the countryside as a terroristic reminder to the people that Rome is in charge and that Roman power and domination is supreme. This is no time for joyful exuberance. Luke insists followers of Jesus are set free to "praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power they had seen." Throughout the gospel of Luke, the writer reminds us exactly what those deeds of power are, and they are quite different from the fear-based destructive power of Rome.

Stories of Jesus healing, welcoming the outcast, challenging the rich and powerful, and feeding the hungry all reflect the power in a joyful way of life that Jesus calls the Realm of God. As Wes Howard Brooks notes in his work *Come Out My People*, "Luke's goal was to convince them that the way of Jesus would provide what the empire promised but could not deliver; peace, justice, and abundance for all." When

Green Island - Brighton, Mornington, St Kilda

facing what appears to be the eve of destruction, those following Jesus into Jerusalem with all its risks and uncertainty do so with joy because their hope is not in the fleeting power of Rome, but rather the endless, eternal power of God revealed in the life of Jesus. Biblical scholars John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg give a vivid image of the choice faced on Palm/Passion Sunday when they posit two different entrances into Jerusalem. From the West rides Pilate on a horse, draped and surrounded by all the exploitive power that Rome can muster. Jesus rides from the East with all the power that resides in love. Fear accompanies Pilate's parade. Jesus enters Jerusalem to songs of joy and celebration.

As we follow Jesus into Jerusalem, we hear cries of anguish, trust, thanks, and hope. Holy week invites us to own the fullness of life's experience. It takes courage and trust for Jesus and the disciples to enter Jerusalem and it takes courage and trust for us to face the destructive forces of our day. How do your Holy Week traditions enable you to be honest, yet hopeful, about the challenges you face and the challenges we face in our world?

Theme: Palm Sunday

Call to worship

Have you heard? Jesus of Nazareth is coming to town! **The man who has been doing all the amazing things we have heard about?**

Come, people are gathering from all over the place to see this Jesus.

Some are calling him the Messiah! Some are calling him a king!

Wouldn't it be wonderful to see the Messiah – a saviour for us! Wouldn't it be amazing to live with a different king – a king who ruled with love and compassion. Perhaps this is the one!

Perhaps this is the one! Hosanna! Save us! Let's join the parade!

Opening Prayer

We are not people of power, Holy Creator. We do not have our hands on the policies of the land. We do not have the resources to make a great difference in anyone's life today. But we are a people of resistance and hope, and today we raise our palms high in celebration of our Sovereign – the one who came in compassion and humility, and lived among us in radical welcome, and rode into town on a colt to remind us of these great strengths. Be with us as we worship. Ride into our hearts again and help us to remember your abiding presence, and that your love for us is our great and indomitable power. Amen.

Readings: Palm & Passion account from Luke's gospel

Offering and prayer of dedication

These gifts seem so small when we remember your sacrifice for us. And yet, we know as well that you are present in any act of love and generosity. Be present through this offering and help us to transform it into new life and new beginnings, we pray. Amen.

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Blessing the Palm Crosses

God of all people and all places, the cross is a symbol for us of your boundless compassion.

Bless these crosses, we pray, that they may be reminders of your great love for us in Christ. Help us to take up our own cross daily and follow you; through the same Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

Hymns: HTC 119 Ride on, ride on in majesty, HTC 136 My song is love unknown, HTC 417 Lord Jesus Christ, HTC 120 All glory, praise and honour.

Notices

Thank you to the team who made our Palm Crosses yesterday.

Tuesday 16th April: 4pm Health & Wellness group meets at St Kilda.

Wednesday 17th April: 1pm Eucharist at Holy Cross, 2pm Bradford Manor worship,

Thursday 18th April; Fruit & Vege distribution; St Marks 10:30-11:30am, St Kilda 4pm-5.30pm. 12.10pm Chrism Eucharist @ the Cathedral, 7pm Tenebrae @ St Mark's GI

Good Friday 19th April: 9.30am Walk with the Cross begins at St Mary's, 3pm Good Friday reflections at Holy Cross St Kilda.

Sunday 21st April: 7am Sunrise Service on Brighton Beach followed by Eucharist & Breakfast at St Margaret's, 9.30 Eucharist @ St Mary's, 11am Eucharist @ Holy Cross..