

# Palm Sunday

## Luke 19:28–40

*'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'*

At that time: Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, saying, 'Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" you shall say this: "The Lord has need of it.'" So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, 'Why are you untying the colt?' And they said, 'The Lord has need of it.' And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. As he was drawing near — already on the way down the Mount of Olives —the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying, 'Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!' And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, rebuke your disciples.' He answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.'

## Reflection

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, the most important week of the Church's year. Jesus' ministry has been leading up to this point as he enters Jerusalem triumphantly. In parishes the procession into the church (sometimes with a donkey!) re-enacts Jesus' journey into the city, where he is welcomed by the crowd. He is treated like a king, although he enters on a colt (young horse/donkey), which is not the usual way a king would arrive; Jesus comes in peace. In Luke's Gospel the people do not lay palms on the floor but they lay cloaks, which would be a person's most expensive piece of clothing. This links to Luke's theme of rich and poor that runs throughout his Gospel; the people give everything to their king.

Palm Sunday marks the start of Holy Week, but it's just the first act in a journey through the Triduum—the three days of special liturgies and services. During Holy Week, we reflect on the final days of Jesus' life: His triumphant entry into Jerusalem, the Last Supper with His disciples, His arrest in Gethsemane, His crucifixion, and His resurrection. Why not consider attending these powerful services in your parish with your family? How can you make this Holy Week more meaningful and personal this year?



## Materials needed

Lenten Prayer chain needed

## Activity

Jesus showed incredible bravery when He entered Jerusalem, knowing He would suffer and die. His care for the poor and those in need is a powerful example for us as Vincentians. Sometimes it can feel overwhelming to know how to help people living in poverty, but prayer and action both matter. Take a look at the prayer chain you started in the first week of Lent—how long has it grown? It's amazing to think about all the people you've been praying for.

As we enter Holy Week, the most important week of the Church's year, keep those people in your prayers. Maybe you can add more links to your chain today for others around the world who are struggling because of poverty. Every prayer is a way to show them God's love and remind ourselves to keep making a difference.

## Call to Action

This Palm Sunday, as we remember the people who laid their cloaks on the ground to welcome Jesus, let's take inspiration from their act of kindness and generosity. Just as they offered what they had, we have an opportunity to share with those in need. Lots of people could use a little warmth and care. Can you help by donating used clothes, coats, and blankets to a local charity? Let's make this Holy Week about more than just reflection—let's act with compassion and provide for others.