

Celebrating Holy Week at Home



Introduction

Holy Week is the most sacred, special and important week of the year.

This week the Church travels with Jesus, from his being treated like a king on Palm Sunday to his being treated as a criminal on the cross at Calvary, to his Resurrection on Easter Sunday, his victory over death.

The journey that Jesus took was very hard, very painful. His body hurt from the very heavy cross he carried. from the crown of thorns on his head -but Jesus also was hurt in his heart-he was made fun of, forgotten by so many of his friends and made to look like a fool in front of lots of people.

This week we can make sure Jesus is not on his own. We can listen in our hearts and hear Jesus ask us to walk with him, to comfort and love him, because we are his family.

In Holy Week by staying with Jesus on his journey we realise more and more that it is not only the journey of Jesus, but it is our journey too. We have times in our life which are very happy and joyful. We have times too when life can be difficult and sad. Our whole life is tied up with Jesus. His life is our life and by dying and rising Jesus gives us the promise of eternal life, life with God forever.



Jesus is asking us to be with him on Palm Sunday

It is probably easy to be with Jesus at this part of his journey. Jesus was treated like a king when he rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. To be his friend on Palm Sunday, means to be part of this celebration. But this is only the start of a week in which things would be very different for his friends.



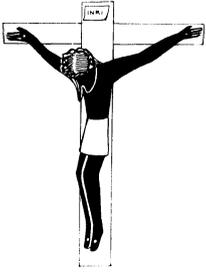
Jesus is asking us to be with him at the Last Supper

Jesus is asking us to be with him at the Last supper on Holy Thursday evening.

There Jesus will say the things he wants to say to us before he dies. He will say them by washing our feet. This is the example of love he wants to give us so we can give it to others.

He will give himself to us in His precious Body and Blood, so we may do this, so we can share in his life.

After the supper in the garden of Gethsemane, he will show how difficult this journey is for him and he will ask us not to leave him on his own but to wait with him to comfort and to love him.



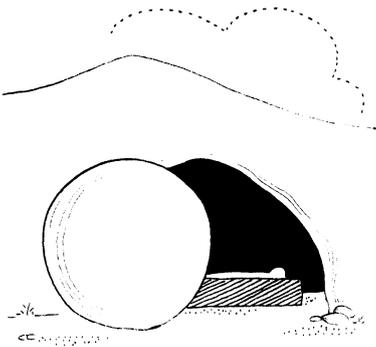
Jesus is asking us to be with him on Good Friday

On Good Friday Jesus asks us to be with him at the moment of his death. We are invited to stand at the cross with Mary, his mother and his close friend John, the apostle, to comfort and to love him.



Jesus is asking us to be with him on Good Friday Evening and Holy Saturday

Jesus asks us to wait quietly in prayer at the tomb where Jesus was placed after his death.



Jesus is asking us to be with him at Easter and Forever!

Jesus' death did not end in death but in life. At the Easter Vigil Jesus asks us to be part of the most important night of the year. It is the key night in the story of our faith, the night of Jesus Resurrection. It is not just something from the past, a story to be told. The resurrection happens now. Because of the Easter Vigil we can face anything in life. There is no need to be afraid. Jesus Christ our risen Saviour has defeated even death. Death has been defeated. This is the day of Good News. This Good News should be our life story. We are all invited to choose this Good News and make it our own.

