



Walk This Way

A Synodal Walk during Holy Week

Approaching Holy Week

For many Christians the annual celebration of the resurrection of Jesus begins on Palm Sunday.

Between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday there is a variety of distinct rituals, ceremonies and actions that both commemorate and re-enact the words, deeds and actions of Jesus in the week we refer to as Holy Week. Not all of these ceremonies need to be within the walls of the Church. Most of what we remember took place outside.

As we prepare for Holy Week 2022 let us try to review and reimagine how we can bring alive two very public encounters with Jesus.

Holy Week provides two opportunities to host ceremonies/rituals outdoors

- Palm Sunday – Procession
- Good Friday – Way of the Cross
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Palm Sunday

- Palm Sunday is a Christian moveable feast that falls on the Sunday before Easter. The feast commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, an event mentioned in each of the four canonical Gospels. It marks the beginning of Holy Week.
- Palm Sunday is the day the Church celebrates Christ's entrance into Jerusalem. The memorial of this event, is included on/in Masses that take place on Palm Sunday and includes the procession and blessing of Palms before Mass.



- There are accounts of Palm Sunday being celebrated from around the fourth century.
- Egeria, also known as Etheria, documented her pilgrimage to the Holy Land in the late 4th century.
- In her account, she wrote of the scene in Jerusalem on that day, when Christians celebrate Jesus' entry into the city of Jerusalem:



- *“...as the eleventh hour approaches, the passage from the Gospel is read, where the children, carrying branches and palms, met the Lord, saying; Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord, and the bishop immediately rises, and all the people with him, and they all go on foot from the top of the Mount of Olives, all the people going before him with hymns and antiphons, answering one to another: Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord. And all the children in the neighbourhood, even those who are too young to walk, are carried by their parents on their shoulders, all of them bearing branches, some of palms and some of olives, and thus the bishop is escorted in the same manner as the Lord was of old.”*

(The actions described by Egeria show a way of replicating the celebration of the arrival of Jesus as depicted in the Gospels)

3 Options for Procession of Palms

The first is known as the procession, during which participants wave branches while walking into the church and singing.

The second form is known as the “solemn entrance.” Here, the majority of the congregants start the Mass from inside the church but a smaller group meets with clergy to enter the church together “in a solemn way,”

The “simple entrance” is when the procession is omitted, and Mass begins in the conventional way. Today the “simple entrance” is the most frequently practiced, largely as a matter of ease.

Procession Planning...

If your Church has an open space near the main door or a large open safe space – consider using it to involve everyone in the Procession.

The congregation assembles in a suitable place distinct from the Church to which the procession will move.

Those attending are invited to carry palm branches.

Traditionally the priest and ministers wear Red Vestments.

Invite people to wave the branches as a sign of welcome to replicate Jesus' entry into the City.

Liturgy groups could consider inviting representative groups in the parish, maybe those preparing or recently receiving First Holy Communion, Confirmation or JPil groups to be part of the Procession.

The parish choir or cantor can lead everyone in a simple refrain using Hosanna or similar hymns,

- Ideally a suitable song/hymn is sung to reflect the opening Antiphon
- 'Hosanna to the Son of David, the King of Israel. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest'
- After words of welcome the Palm is blessed.
- Ideally this should take place where everyone present can see it.
- The Gospel is Proclaimed - Luke 19:28-90
- A short homily or reflection can be made at this point.
- Procession begins immediately afterwards with the words, *'Let us go forth in peace, praising Jesus our Messiah as did the crowds who welcomed him to Jerusalem.'*
- Choirs/ Music can then be sung while everyone processes into the Church

Practical Suggestions

Ensure everyone will hear what is spoken – maybe use a portable sound system

Involve families or children preparing for Sacraments later in the year – they can form part of the procession

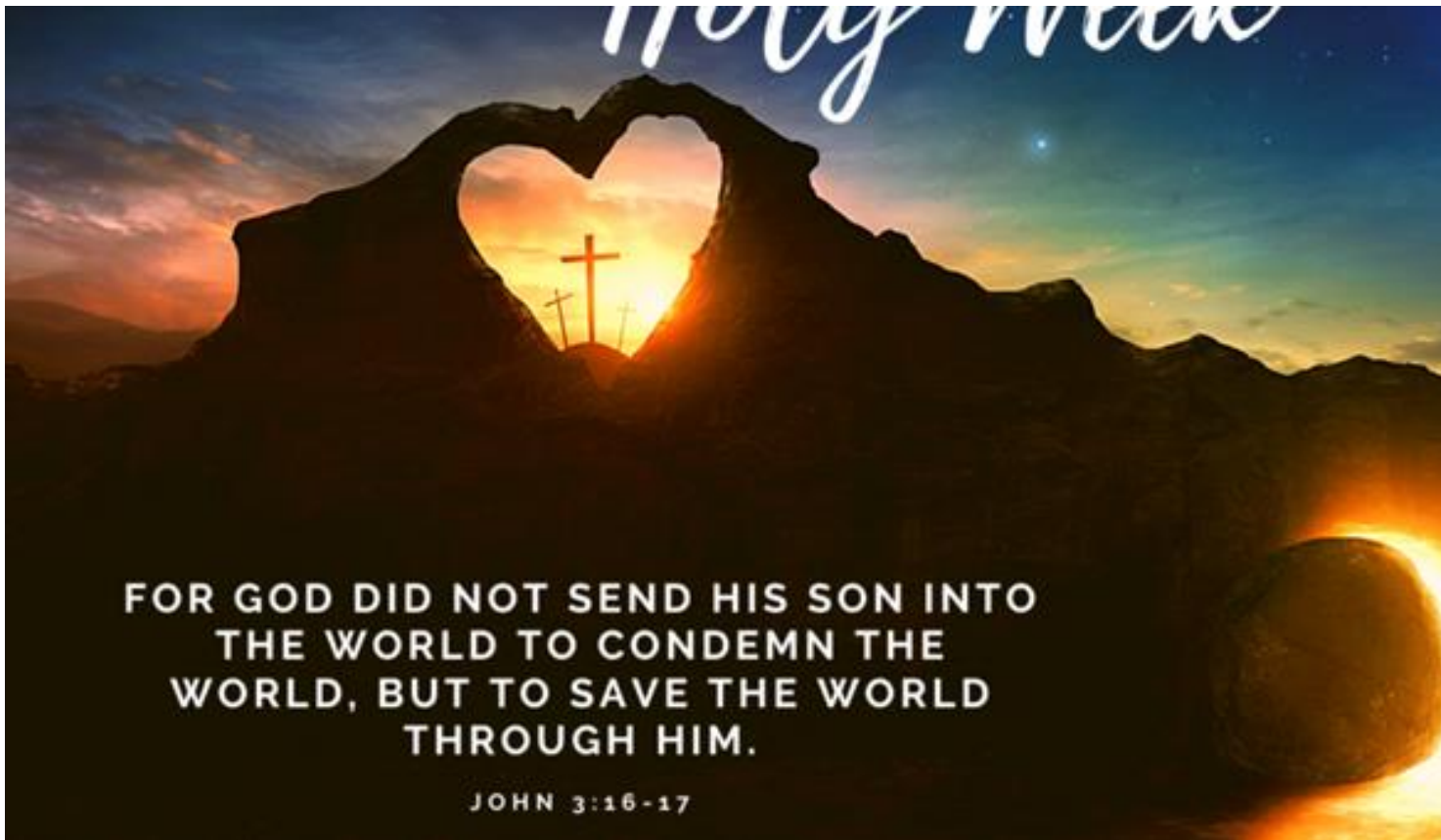
If music is begin used – ensure everyone can hear it. Even better teach everyone a simple refrain with the words Sing Hosanna to the King)

Check that there is enough Palm for everyone

Remind people to take some blessed Palm home and place it in a significant place.



Good Friday



- Good Friday is the most solemn day in our Liturgical Calendar. Our Churches and the Sanctuary should be completely bare, without cloths, candles or the cross. Traditionally we celebrate the Lord's Passion in the afternoon, usually at 3pm. This is the central liturgical celebration of the day.

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Walking the Way of the Cross

- The Stations of the Cross or the Way of the Cross, also known as the Way of Sorrows or the Via Crucis, refers to a series of images depicting Jesus Christ on the day of his crucifixion and accompanying prayers. The stations grew out of imitations of the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem, which is a traditional processional route symbolising the actual path Jesus walked to Mount Calvary. The objective of the stations is to help Christians to make a spiritual pilgrimage through contemplation of the Passion of Christ.
- One great way of commemorating the way of the cross is to host an outdoor way of the Cross in your local parish/community. Some parishes already do this and walk local streets or choose various 'stations' in the parish grounds. This can also take place in an ecumenical way involving members of local Christian churches.

Practical Suggestions for Good Friday

Establish	Establish a local working group to plan where and when this can take place
Identify	Identify suitable positions to pause to read, reflect and pray the stations
Need	You will need a Cross that can move between the various stations
Encourage	Encourage people to gather at a starting location
Ensure	Ensure whoever is speaking can be heard by everyone.
Begin	Begin each station with the Traditional words - WE ADORE YOU, O CHRIST, AND WE PRAISE YOU, BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD.
Consider	Consider singing a refrain from a suitable hymn such as Stay Here and Keep Watch, Jesus Remember Me, Be Not Afraid,



Resources for Good Friday

- There are many different versions and types of Station of the Cross texts. You can purchase one from Veritas or download one such as the two below that can be adapted for use in your local parish.
- ***Download Way of the Cross/Stations***
- <https://dublindiocese.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Stations-of-the-Cross-The-Way-of-Mary.pdf>
- <http://litmus.dublindiocese.ie/2013/03/good-friday-stations-of-the-cross/>



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