



North  
Leightonstone  
a Church of England Benefice

Alconbury, Buckworth, Hamerton, The Giddings, The Riptons, The Stukeleys, Upton and Winwick

[www.norleigh.org.uk](http://www.norleigh.org.uk)

## Readings for 5<sup>th</sup> April Palm Sunday

### Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,  
who in your tender love towards the human race  
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ  
to take upon him our flesh  
and to suffer death upon the cross:  
grant that we may follow the example of his  
patience and humility,  
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

*On Palm Sunday, at the start of the service, the Church traditionally hears the story of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey – a humble king. The palm crosses are blessed, and sometimes there is a palm procession. The people broke branches from the palm trees to wave, because they were the local trees. Don't break branches, but maybe there's a fallen branch, or you could make a palm leaf (if all else fails, draw round your hand, cut it out, colour it green, sellotape it to the end of a stick or straw). Sing 'hosanna' – praise to Jesus our king.*

### Gospel of the Palms: Matt 21: 1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.' This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, 'Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest heaven!

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

*The other readings and the Psalm move us from Palm Sunday to Good Friday. We hear the whole of the story of Jesus' last 24 hours in the Gospel reading.*

*I've just put the Bible reference this week, as the readings are long. If you haven't got a Bible at home, let me know and I'll send you the full version of the readings.*

### Old Testament reading Isaiah 50: 4-9a

#### Verses from Psalm 31 (9-16)

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

### New Testament reading Philippians 2: 5-11

### Gospel reading Matthew 26: 14- end of 27

#### Prayer during the week

True and humble king,  
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:  
grant us the faith to know you and love you,  
that we may be found beside you  
on the way of the cross,  
which is the path of glory. **Amen**

**Services and Activities  
for Holy Week and Easter**

**Holy Week and Easter**

The only time I have missed Holy Week and Easter in my own parishes was in 1998, when I was ending my extended study leave, and was in Rome. Since I had good seats at all the Papal services, and the Good Friday agreement was signed then, it was truly memorable.

This year will also be memorable, but differently. There will be no services in church. Instead, we must find a way to make Easter in our hearts, even in the sadness of the world around us.

The Benefice team are producing a number of resources Mandy will be streaming a number of services during Holy Week. I will be producing a number of meditations.

All resources will be sent out to churchwardens and others, and uploaded to the website –

[www.norleigh.org.uk](http://www.norleigh.org.uk)



Why not create a 'Worship Space' in your house. It doesn't need to be large – somewhere where you can sit quietly and away from other noise. You might like to have some 'aids' to help you in your quiet (a cross, a candle etc). If you're following the service or meditation on a laptop or phone, you may need a

source of electricity! If you're on a desktop – see how you can make that space special.

**April 4<sup>th</sup>**

**8.00 pm Meditation Preparing for Palm Sunday**

–on Philippians 2: 5-11 on North Leightonstone FB group (art, words and music)

**Palm Sunday**

**8.00 am A service of Spiritual Communion**

**9.30 – Palm Sunday Morning Praise** – led by Revd Mandy Flaherty and livestreamed on Facebook – St Peter and St Paul's Facebook Page. Posted on North Leightonstone Group page afterwards.

**6.00pm – Evening Prayer on Zoom** – hosted by Mandy. Please email to join and I will send link

**8.00 Meditation 'Going into the darkness'** –on North Leightonstone Facebook Group.

**Holy Week**

**Monday – 8.00pm – Compline by Zoom** – hosted by Jim and Sylvia

**Tuesday – 8.00pm – Compline by Zoom** – hosted by Jim and Sylvia

**Wednesday – 8.00pm – Compline by Zoom** – hosted by Jim and Sylvia

For these Compline services, please email Jim at [james.hogg@norleigh.org.uk](mailto:james.hogg@norleigh.org.uk) for the link to join in

**Monday – Wednesday 7.00 pm Fiona will post a series of meditations for Holy Week** on the North Leightonstone Group page

**Maundy Thursday – let's share a meal together!**

I am making homemade soup at 7pm and will post a picture on Facebook with a suitable meditation as we think about Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. Would anyone like to Zoom our meal together and meditation following? If so email and let me know. Time would be roughly 7-7.30pm.

8.30 pm From Passover to Peter's denial

**Good Friday – meditation on the Cross at 2.30pm by Zoom and hosted by Mandy** - '*The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew*' - a reading with parts lasting approx 20-30 minutes and ending with a Silent Reflection at 3pm. Please email to join and say whether you would be willing to read a part of The Passion story. Passion 'script' can be emailed out.

**7.00 pm 'Looking back'** – sitting with Mary Magdalene, Joseph of Arimathea and others– meditation at the end of the day

**Easter Eve**

**8.00 pm Vigil in word, music and art** (North Leightonstone Benefice FB page)

**Easter Sunday**

**6.00am – Sunrise Service led by Fiona** – outside, recorded and posted onto Facebook by 6.00am. Posted on website later.

**9.30 – Easter Sunday Praise led by Mandy** – on Facebook Live and posted onto website and other Facebook pages.

**6.00 pm The Emmaus Road** – quiet at the end of this most strange and amazing day.

**The BBC Easter broadcast schedule can be found at**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/latestnews/2020/easter>

Don't forget – look for St Peter and St Paul Alconbury or North Leightonstone Benefice on Facebook.



## Together, Apart

Below are some national and local ideas to remember that we are 'Together, Apart'

### SING TOGETHER ON EASTER DAY

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland are suggesting that we sing together at 10.00 am on Easter Day 'Jesus Christ is risen today' and 'Thine be the glory'. Sing in the garden, from the balcony, in the shower – sing resurrection!



### LIGHT A CANDLE ON SUNDAY

Light a candle and place it in a window every Sunday at 7.00 pm. Pause to pray for all those affected by this virus – here and around the world.

### LIGHT A VIRTUAL CANDLE

Originally set up to remember someone who died, the Church Support Hub has the facility to light a virtual candle. You might like to do this to remember someone who's not well, or on your heart at this time.

Look at

<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/funerals/light-candle>

### HELP CHILDREN GO ON A BEAR HUNT

Many children, as part of their daily exercise, are going on a bear hunt – looking for bears (or other stuffed toys) placed in windows. Look out a soft toy, place it in a window children can see from the street, and brighten some families' days.

## OTHER HOLY WEEK RESOURCES

.There is a plethora of links online for Holy Week resources.

At the start of the weekend, we had an update from **the diocese of Ely**, with a list of resources:

- Bishop Dagmar has recorded a reflection for Palm Sunday and will record further reflections during Holy Week

<https://www.elydiocese.org/about/news-jobs-and-events/news/bishop-dagmars-reflection-for-palm-sunday.php>

- Being Church during Covid-19 <https://www.elydiocese.org/parishsupport/beingchurchduringcovid19-resourcesandadvice/>

- Resources for work with children and families for Holy Week and Easter <https://www.elydiocese.org/church-roles/childrens-workers/childrens-workers-support-during-coronavirus/>
- Ely Cathedral has 'Worship at Home, with daily reflections from Canon Jessica Martin <https://www.elycathedral.org/>
- Although the usual Cathedral Service on Maundy Thursday will not happen, the clergy and lay ministers have been sent an order of service 'Renewing our Ministerial Commitment', which we expect to use via Zoom, as a deanery on Thursday. Please remember all those who minister on Thursday.

## Together, Apart - in our communities

Some people are struggling with the decision to close churches and other places of worship. The Church of England has produced a series of Frequently Asked Questions, and other updates on its response

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>

You can also find prayers and other worship resources at this site.

Communities are responding well, and finding ways to support one another. <https://yourneighbour.org/>

## PRAYER

We are beginning to hear of people ill with COVID-19, and of family members and friends elsewhere who have died.

BUT – we are also hearing of people who are having to make life-limiting choices about other kinds of medical care at this time, or whose operations have been delayed; of relatives who have died from other causes; of people who are now finding the isolation hard to bear.

Please remember that the staff team are here to listen and to offer prayers.

## PHONE CALLS

It's also really important that we stay connected to those who have no link with the internet. If you know of anyone – church member or not – who needs a 'keeping in touch' phone call: do make it yourself, or let Mandy or Fiona know.

**PRAYERS FOR HINCHINGBROOKE HOSPITAL**

As a benefice, we are praying for all the wards in Hinchingsbrooke Hospital. The next page lists the wards and the parishes praying for them, plus some possible prayers to use. You might like to pray for your own surgery or health centre as well

**Wards in Hinchingsbrooke Hospital**

- 1) **Great Gidding**  
Plum Tree Ward and Acute Assessment Unit
- 2) **Hamerton**  
Apple Tree Ward and Critical Care Centre
- 3) **Buckworth**  
Birch Ward and Walnut Ward
- 4) **Upton**  
Cherry Tree Ward and Acute Assessment Unit
- 5) **Little Stukeley**  
Daisy Ward and Critical Care Centre
- 6) **Winwick**  
Jasmine Ward and Walnut Ward
- 7) **King's Ripton**  
Bay Tree Ward and Acute Assessment Unit
- 8) **Abbots Ripton**  
Lilac Ward and Critical Care Centre
- 9) **Great Stukeley**  
Medical Short Stay Unit and Chaplaincy team
- 10) **Alconbury**  
Pear Ward and Walnut Ward

**Prayers from the Church of England Website**

**For hospital staff and medical researchers:**

Gracious God,  
give skill, sympathy and resilience  
to all who are caring for the sick,  
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.  
Strengthen them with your Spirit,  
that through their work many will be restored to  
health;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**For those who are ill:**

Merciful God,  
we entrust to your tender care  
those who are ill or in pain,  
knowing that whenever danger threatens  
your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.  
Comfort and heal them,  
and restore them to health and strength,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**A traditional night prayer - For those who wait**

Watch now, dear Lord,  
with those who wake or watch or weep tonight,  
and give your angels charge over those who sleep.  
Tend your sick ones, O Lord Christ,  
rest your weary ones,  
bless your dying ones,  
soothe your suffering ones,  
pity your afflicted ones,  
shield your joyous ones,  
and all for your love's sake. **Amen**

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