

This Sunday is Palm Sunday and there are a number of processions and other events around the Circuit to mark that event. I've always thought that people from outside the Church could get the wrong impression of what Easter is about if they see people enjoying parading with Palms on one Sunday and then the very next week celebrating Easter with eggs and joyful worship.

What about what happens in between? I hope that you will get the chance to go to some of the midweek worship that is taking place. There are Maundy Thursday and Good Friday events to take part in which will dig into the full story of what took place.

In the meantime - here's a mediation of some imagined words of someone who has a vested interest in what takes place on Palm Sunday:

Matthew 21. 1-11

Here we go!

You see now that's what I'm talking about...right there. I wasn't sure he was going to do it. I kept hoping, but I wasn't sure...you know. He's so hard to predict. So difficult to read. I wanted him to...of course I did. I've kept hearing stories of the things he's been saying and doing and I thought to myself...what if this is it? What if he comes to Jerusalem? Oh we're going to have some fun then I thought. Those Romans - they won't know what's hit 'em because we're rising up. We'll take it all the way. They're out of here!

But he never seemed that interested you know. Not in the politics...the realities of what has got to happen. He always seemed more interested in other stuff. You know it's great to heal the sick and to have sit down chats with people. Well actually...I'm not all that happy with some of the stories that I've been hearing about some of the people he's been talking to. 'That won't keep the ordinary people onside' I thought...tax collectors...Samaritans...what does he think he's doing? He needs to get his head out of the clouds and see where the real change needs to happen. To rise up against our oppressors. Bring in a righteous reign. Make some heads roll. That's what we need. Revolution...now that's what I'm talking about.

And now...well...could it be any better? I mean he's just ridden into the city on a donkey. This is it! What a statement of intent. I was there, of course I was, handing out palm branches...getting the crowd on side.

'Brothers...sisters...', I said, 'now is our moment - now is our time to rise up and stick it to the Romans. Now is the time to change the world.'

'Hosanna to the Son of David!' They shouted as they took their cloaks off and spread them on the road. And I'm all for that. I'm all for a bit of worship but we need change...political change. We need people on side. We need to start arming people and giving them the confidence that something really important is about to happen. And if I can just stop Jesus wanting to talk to every tax collector as though he's his best mate then we're in with a real chance. But we've got to seize the momentum. The city's packed with visitors. Now's our chance.

My only problem is that Jesus doesn't look like he's up for the fight. He keeps on talking about love and welcoming the lost. Well that's all very well but we need to seize the initiative and do it now. I can get him on side later. We'll start spreading the word that he's ready to go...what's a bit of fake news amongst friends. He'll soon come round. The crowd is always right.

Have a blessed Holy Week and Easter.

Paul

Resources/Good News

World Happiness Report 2023

The World Happiness Report 2023 records that various forms of everyday kindness — such as helping a stranger, donating to charity, and volunteering — are all above pre-pandemic levels. Read the report at:

<https://worldhappiness.report/ed/2023/>

It has been over ten years since the first World Happiness Report was published. And it is exactly ten years since the United Nations General

Assembly adopted Resolution 66/281, proclaiming 20 March to be observed annually as International Day of Happiness.

Guildford Death Café – 23 May 2023

Death is an inevitable part of life yet most of us find it a very difficult topic to talk about. We want to normalise the conversation and help lead the discussion by providing a safe and informal space to talk about your thoughts and feelings around death and dying.

Our death cafes are free and open to anyone, to speak freely and without judgement. There is no set agenda for a death café meeting just facilitated discussion following the interests of those attending.

Past discussion topics have included:

- Do I want to be cremated or buried?
- How do I talk to my family and friends about death?
- What legacy do I want to leave behind?
- What is a good death?
- The fear of death
- Advance planning

Taking time to reflect on death is something we can all do. When we spend time talking about death, we find that it helps remove the fear around it. Come along to our Death Café and join in the conversation!

Pre-booking is essential:

[Guildford Death Café Tickets, Tue 23 May 2023 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)