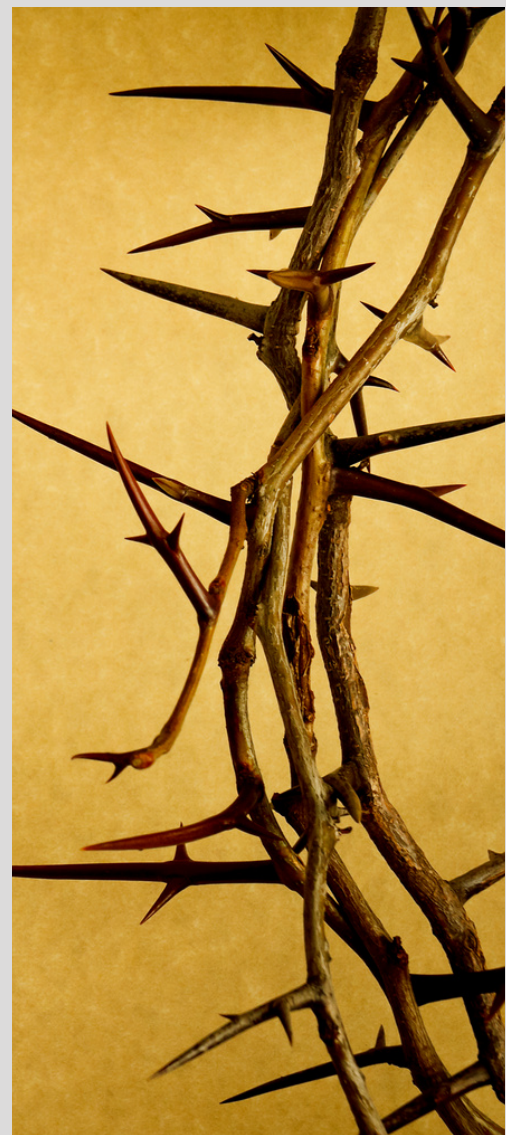




Laudato Si' Centre

Pray with Nature

ECHOES OF CHRIST'S PASSION IN CREATION



Join us as we follow the story of Christ's Passion through the eyes of creation. Using prayer aids from the natural world around us, we will meditate on the final hours of Jesus as we seek to draw ever closer to Him throughout this journey of prayer.

*Palm Sunday
Item - Leaf/branch/palm*

*Monday
Item - Lavender*

*Tuesday
Item - Feather*

*Wednesday
Item - Soil*

*Maundy Thursday
Item - Water*

*Good Friday
Item - Holly/Bramble/Thorn*

*Holy Saturday
Item - Cross made from sticks and twine*



Palm Sunday

Item: Leaf, branch, or palm

Scripture Reflection

When they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, and said to them, 'Go into the village opposite you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat; untie it and bring it. If any one says to you, "Why are you doing this?" say, "The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately."' "

And they went away, and found a colt tied at the door out in the open street; and they untied it. And those who stood there said to them, 'What are you doing, untying the colt?' And they told them what Jesus had said; and they let them go. And they brought the colt to Jesus, and threw their garments on it; and he sat upon it.

And many spread their garments on the road, and others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. And those who went before and those who followed cried out, 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is coming! Hosanna in the highest!'

Mark 11:1-10

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

As we look at these leaves, we think of the palm leaves that were waved in joyful celebration of your entrance into Jerusalem.

We ask that we can be a joyful witness to the start of this most holy of weeks, waving our own leaves in celebration. Help us to care for creation in a way that allows us to share the beauty of these leaves with others so they can recognise the importance of this week.

May we be examples of spreading joy at the start of this Holy week.

Stay with us Lord, on our journey
Amen



Monday

Item: Lavender

Scripture Reflection

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honour. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

"Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."

Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him.

John 12: 1-11

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

As we look at this photo of lavender and consider its beautiful scent, we think of the sweet scent of the oil that Mary poured over your feet.

We ask that we can follow Mary's example of care she showed when anointing your feet.

Help us to care for creation in a way that allows others to share the sweet smell of the lavender.

May we be examples of spreading the kindness that Mary showed, this Holy Week.

Stay with us Lord, on our journey
Amen



Tuesday

Item: Feather

Scripture Reflection

After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me." His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask him which one he means."

Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. So Jesus told him, "What you are about to do, do quickly." But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the festival, or to give something to the poor. As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. "My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." Simon Peter asked him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later." Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you."

Then Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me? Very truly I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

As we look upon this feather, we think of the rooster crowing that marks Peter's third denial.

We ask for the courage to be strong witnesses for you, even when we experience challenging times.

Help us to care for creation in a way that allows all animals to thrive, allowing roosters to raise their voices to remind us of our faith.

May we be examples of staying strong in faith this Holy Week.

Stay with us Lord, on our journey
Amen



Wednesday

Item: Soil

Scripture Reflection

In his defense Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.” For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed. For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, that all may honour the Son just as they honour the Father. Whoever does not honour the Son does not honour the Father, who sent him.

“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.

John 5: 17-26

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

As we think of the soil of the earth, and all the microorganisms that it gives life to, we think of the eternal life on offer through you.

We ask that we have this soil as a reminder of the life that is promised through you.

Help us to care for creation in a way that ensures the soils remain a place for many living things to thrive, that we treat it with respect and not use too much so that all of your followers can have a fair share of rich soil.

May we be examples of how following you can put us on the path to eternal life this Holy Week.

Stay with us Lord, on our journey
Amen



Maundy Thursday

Item: Water

Scripture Reflection

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You do not realise now what I am doing, but later you will understand." "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

John 13: 1-15

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

As we look upon this water pouring, we think of the example you gave of servant leadership during your Last Supper.

We ask that we may follow your example to care for our work colleagues, our friends, our family and our neighbours.

Help us to care for creation in a way that allows clean water for all, sharing the resources you so graciously granted to us so all may live with clean water.

May we be examples of how to put others' needs before our own this Holy Week.

Stay with us Lord, on our journey
Amen



Good Friday

Item: Bramble, holly, thorn

Scripture Reflection

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe and went up to him again and again, saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" And they slapped him in the face. Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him." When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!". As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!" But Pilate answered, "You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him." The Jewish leaders insisted, "We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God."

When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, and he went back inside the palace. "Where do you come from?" he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. "Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realise I have power either to free you or to crucify you?" Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin."

From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar." When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge's seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon. "Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews. But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!". "Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked. "We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered. Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

John 19: 1-16

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

As we look upon the thorns, we think of what is must have been like for you when they placed the crown of thorns upon your head.

We know that there are many challenges in life, may we see the thorns and be reminded that you know what it is to suffer, you have experienced our pains and our sufferings too and are there with us, every step of the way.

Help us to care for creation in a way that allows all kinds of flora to thrive, the thorns and the stings as well as the beautiful flowers as they all have their part to play in the glory of creation.

May we pray for all who suffer this Holy Week that through you, they find the comfort you bring.

Stay with us Lord, on our journey
Amen



Holy Saturday

Item: Cross made out of sticks and twine

Scripture Reflection

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body.

Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

Mark 16: 1-7

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

As we look at this cross formed from these two twigs, we think of you upon the cross and all you gave for us.

We ask that we have the faith to lift your name on high, to give thanks for the cross.

Help us to care for creation so that the trees around us can thrive and that we can look upon the wood of the trees and be reminded of the wood of the cross.

May we be examples of spreading the Good News that is to come from the cross, on Easter Sunday now and throughout the year.

Stay with us Lord, on our journey
Amen



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