

FAITH @ Home

Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

Celebrating and supporting faith, hope and love in the heart of the family!



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PALM SUNDAY

MARCH: THE MONTH OF ST JOSEPH

Year B

Sunday Mass Readings

Entrance Procession

Mark 11:1-10 / John 12:12-16

First Reading:

Isaiah 50:4-7

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 21(22): 8-9, 17-20, 23-24

Second Reading:

Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel:

Mark 14:1-15:47

"Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel. Hosanna in the highest"



Jean-Léon Gérôme, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Hear

Grab your Bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have one? No worries, you can find this week's readings [here](#).

If you have children, you might like to [this animated video](#) of the Gospel reading of the Passion.

Pray

The Stations of the Cross are a devotion that is often observed during Lent and Holy Week. It is a way of walking with Jesus through his Passion and death by reflecting on the things he experienced in the final hours of his earthly life.

Pray [Mary's Way of the Cross](#) together as a family this week or watch the dramatised version produced by the young people at [Holy Family Mission](#) (link on page 2).

Talk

On Palm Sunday, the Gospel recalls how Jesus carried his cross through Jerusalem after he was condemned to death. We remember this especially on Good Friday. Reflect on these questions:

- Crosses come in all shapes and sizes. Some are bigger than others. What cross are you carrying right now?
- Is there anyone who helps you when things are difficult or you feel alone?
- When you experience difficulties in life, what helps you to keep going?

Family Challenge!

Visit your local Church to pick up some blessed palm branches. If you cannot go to your Church, find some greenery in your garden. Hang your palms/greenery in a prominent place in your home.

Check out page 3 for a picture from today's reading to print and colour!

Mission: You could try making paper palms from cutouts of your hands on paper ([instructions here](#)). Most of all, make sure your heart is ready to welcome Jesus! Holy Week is the most special week of the year. Set aside a little time every day to pray to Jesus and keep Him company.

Song of the Week!
SING HOSANNA / GIVE ME OIL IN MY LAMP

Please email us at faithathome@waterfordlismore.ie [or click the [subscribe](#) button] if you would like to receive Faith@Home direct to your inbox each week!

"To the Heights" Post-Primary / Youth Version also available: click [SUBSCRIBE](#) / email youthministry@waterfordlismore.ie

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HOW QUICKLY THINGS CHANGED

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week – one of the most dramatic weeks in Jesus' life. It also marks the beginning of the final week of his life on earth. The solemn procession and blessing of palms at the beginning of Mass serves as a reminder of the warm welcome Jesus received when he first arrived in Jerusalem. Word had spread about the many miracles He had performed. Jesus could only do these things if He was who He said He was – the Son of God.

Instead of rolling out the red carpet as we do today for members of the royal family and for glamorous awards ceremonies, people used cloaks and tree branches to roll out the "red carpet" for Jesus. It must have brought great joy to Jesus' heart to see people express their love and reverence for him in that way. At the same time, Jesus knew the events that were about to unfold, which he foretold, and so the experience must have been bittersweet.

Things escalate quickly once Jesus arrives in Jerusalem. He is betrayed by Judas, denied by Peter and deserted and abandoned by his closest friends. Out of jealousy and fear of losing power and authority, the chief priests wanted him dead and convince the crowd to ask for the release of a known murderer instead of innocent Jesus. By Good Friday Jesus is no longer welcomed as the long expected and promised Messiah. Instead he is paraded and mocked through the streets of Jerusalem before being put to death on the Cross at Calvary.

The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. The events of this coming week should remind us of the incredible capacity human beings have to love God and others. It also demonstrates the capacity we have to hurt others. We too can crucify people with our words and our actions when we treat people badly. Let us strive to love others like Jesus loves us.

EVENTS

"The Message of the Good News - God's Unconditional Love"



Sr Antoinette Dilworth's Lenten Reflection on the Diocesan Facebook Live at 7pm Thursday

Stations of the Cross



Please note that this film was produced with senior cycle post-primary students in mind, so parent / guardian discretion while viewing is advised.

Free resource pack for post-primary teachers / youth groups available from youthministry@waterfordlismore.ie

REVIVE Live-streamed event for Youth
Friday 26th March: 7.30 - 8.30 livestreamed on www.holyfamilymission.ie [Click here for more info](#)

Family Prayer

Loving God,
we come together as a family to praise you in a special way today as we celebrate Palm Sunday.
Be with us as we begin our journey through Holy Week.
Draw us closer to you, keep us thankful for Your sacrifice, and fill our hearts with the hope of the Resurrection.
Amen.



Carlo's Corner

WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE?
"Jesus came to destroy what destroys us, to conquer what conquers us, to kill what kills us." - Fr Mike Schmitz -

Palm Sunday marks the start of the most important week in the Church's year. It's the week we remember the sacrifice Jesus made on the Cross. Why did Jesus have to die? For what? Fr Mike Schmitz in his new book, "A World Undone" answers that question with a "whom" instead of a "what". For whom did Jesus die? The simple, but profound answer is for YOU. Every moment of His passion, "every step had a name assigned to it." In Gethsemane as He sweat blood in His anguish, "This is for Mark..." When He was betrayed, "This is for Sarah..." When He was beaten and scourged, "This is for Alison..." when He went through a sleepless night, "This is for Seán..." When He was misunderstood and mocked, "This is for James..."; When He was stripped, nailed and took His last breath, "This is for you..."

This week, this holiest of weeks, take some time to reflect on just how much Jesus was willing to suffer out of love for you, because He was prepared to die so you could be for all eternity with Him in Heaven. If you need something to guide you, watch the Holy Family Mission Stations of the Cross and page 4 (taken from the Ascend Resource Pack)

Check out:

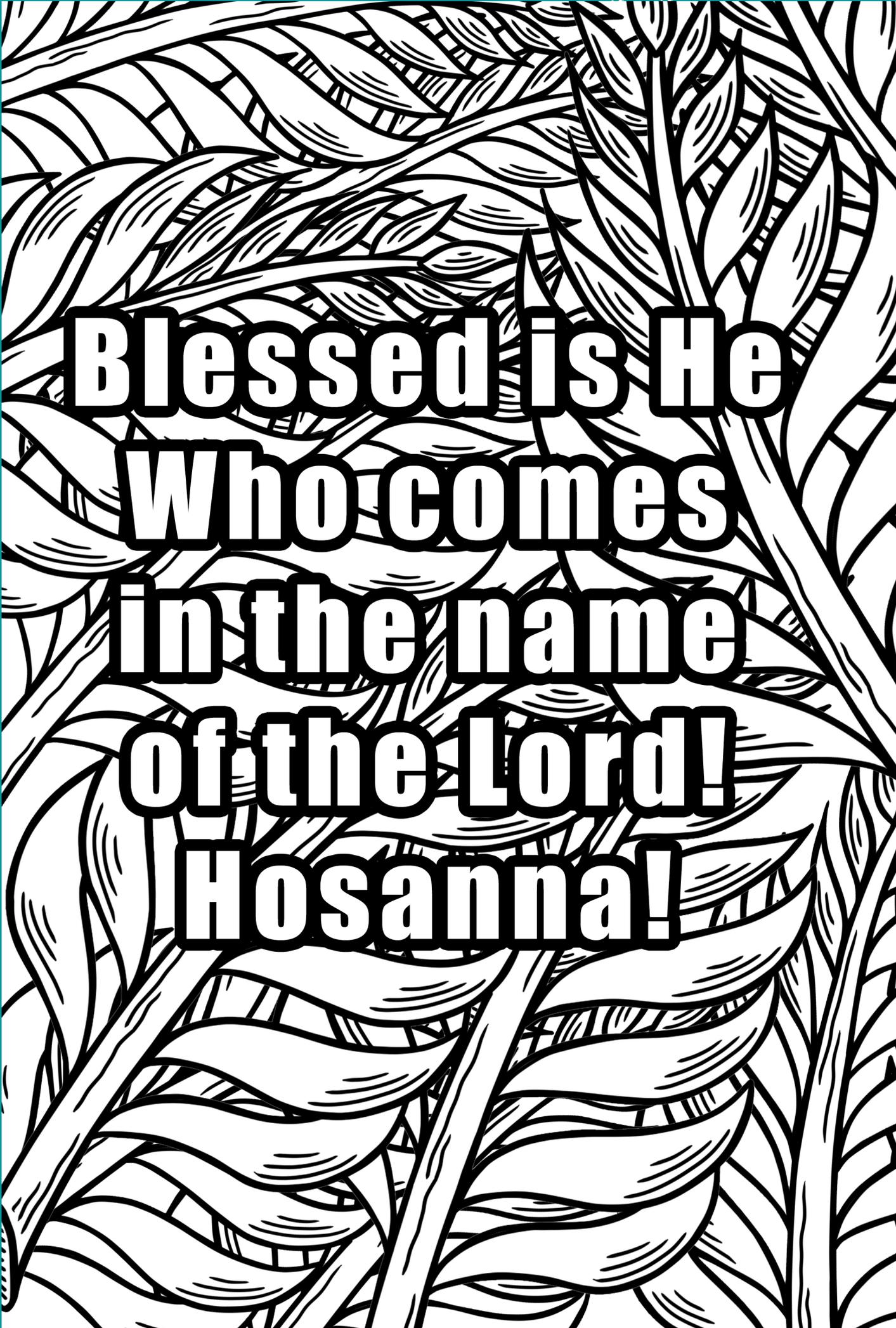
- The Stations of the Cross
- Above All (Michael W Smith)



CHECK IT OUT: SHALOM WORLD



Shalom World is a Catholic TV channel that offers a diverse 24-hour schedule of various international programs that conveys Catholic values to the Youth and Young Adults in a contemporary way, reaching out for free to 375 million English speaking people worldwide with the peace of Christ. Shalom Media strives to bring Christ into the lives of those who seek peace in this chaotic world, by spreading the Gospel through all forms of mass media.



**Blessed is He
Who comes
in the name
of the Lord!
Hosanna!**

