



## Peters Green News Sheet Issue No: 3

Palm Sunday 5th April 2020

Donkey work!

Reading. Mathew 21 : 1 - 11

Our reading today begins with Jesus sending two disciples to a local village. He says, 'Go...and you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Bring them to me.'

I have to admit, as the person who sends the Christmas donkey round our village, that a donkey is not mentioned in the Nativity. We assume it is there to help Mary in her need.

But the donkey is certainly here on Palm Sunday. Jesus needs it and the owner is willing to lend it. The donkey's owner is ready to respond to a need, with kindness, probably not realising the importance of that small act.

In the present situation the kindness shown by so many has been inspiring. Those who have responded in this way are far more than those who have shown panic. My neighbours (like Tom's as you will read next) continue to be there for me in so many ways.

When the NHS asked for 250 000 volunteers to help with food and medical deliveries to the vulnerable; they had more than that number in just a few hours. The Health Secretary was visibly moved when he announced the response. By the next day 500 000 had been in touch ready to do the donkey work.

But why did Jesus need a donkey? He was riding into Jerusalem acclaimed as 'the king who comes in the name of the Lord,' not a conqueror on a war horse, but 'gentle and riding on a donkey.' The disciples and the crowd saw someone special, but did they really understand who He was and why He came? The crowds said, 'Jesus the prophet.'

The followers of Jesus recognised him as the Christ. Martha says, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God who was to come into the world.' ( John 11 : 21) But even his closest friends did not understand that He came to die on the Cross for the sins of that world. As our Palm Sunday hymn reminds us:-

'In lowly pomp ride on to die'.

We usually come together on Good Friday to raise the Cross, but this year, like the first disciples we will be scattered. But then on that first Easter day the Risen Jesus greeted those disciples with 'Peace be with you'.

What ever the fear and turmoil of our present situation; we pray that God's peace and strength will be with each one of us and especially with those who serve us so faithfully.

God bless you,

Pam

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### Thoughts for Today

The intensity of the Corona-virus, rapidly spreading across the world, is a new experience for us. It affects each of us, so now we are in "Lockdown," and even families cannot socialise with each other.

Crises like this, bring out the worst or best in people. Stores and suppliers are under pressure. Panic buying creates more stress.

On Saturday my daughter obtained some food items for me and watched the ugly side of panic buying; customers were fighting and screaming at each other. She managed to get me the last loaf of bread. Shopping like that causes fear and distress.

On Saturday, thankfully, I saw the better side. Later in the evening, I saw on my doormat what I thought was junk mail. I picked it up and it was a note from two strangers, who were going to be my near neighbours in a few weeks. They knew I may find it difficult to get groceries, so they gave me their telephone number with the offer of help if I needed it.

Epidemics seem out of place to us, but the similar accounts are found in the Gospels. Sadly lepers were ostracised, denied socialising or any contact with their families. "PANIC BUYING," was carried out by locusts, by stripping bare farmers' crops, thus, threatening, their livelihood.

God was with His people in such dire conditions, and still is with us, if He can count on us to be agents of His Grace and loving care.

Tom Mower

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Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die!  
O Christ, Thy triumphs now begin  
O'er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
Hark all the tribes 'hosanna cry'  
Thine humble beast pursues his road  
With palms and scattered garments strowed.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die!  
Bow Thy meek head to mortal pain,  
Then take, O God, Thy power, and reign.

