

Palm Sunday: the Palm Cross

Read Mark 11: 1-10

Put your palm cross in the window and use it to pray for your road and community.

Dear Lord,

Thank you for sending your Son and paving the way for our lives to be set free through Jesus' death on the cross. Thank you for what this day stands for - the beginning of Holy Week, the start of the journey towards the power of the cross, the victory of the Resurrection, and the rich truth that Jesus truly is our King of Kings.

"Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord..."

We give you praise and honour for your ways are righteous and true. We give you worship for you are holy and just. We will declare that your love stands firm forever. For your loving kindness endures forever.

Thank you that your ways are far greater than our ways, your thoughts far deeper than our thoughts. Thank you that you had a plan to redeem. Thank you that you make all things new. Thank you that your face is towards the righteous, and you hear our prayers, and know our hearts. Help us to stay strong and true to you. Help us not to follow after the voice of the crowds, but to press in close to you, to hear your whispers, and seek after you alone.

We praise you and we bless you Lord! Thank you that you reign supreme and we are more than conquerors through the gift of Christ!

In the Mighty Name of Jesus, Amen.

(ibelieve.com)



Thank God and pray for :

God's church in your community to know & share the Love of Jesus.

LENT IN A BAG



Lent is a season for Christians to make a special focus on enhancing their ever-growing and loving relationship with God.

Christ's life, ministry, and death are remembered during this season. It is also a time to think about how God is with us all the time. You may do this through prayer, reading the Bible, helping others, or something else. Anything that connects you to God is a great practice. Walking the dog, gardening, seeing new shoots of spring, or listening to birdsong are all ways to commune with God.

This bag contains items to be used as symbols to help our prayer life during Lent and the current season of Lockdown. Please use these in your own way, as you find helpful.

Here are a few ideas. You may like to choose one item each week, as suggested here.



Week 1: Ash Wednesday.

Read Psalm 51. Use the stone as aid to prayer.

Our ancestors in the faith used ashes as a sign of repentance, a symbol of the uncertainty and fragility of human life. Like them, we have tasted the ashes of hopelessness; we have walked through the ashes of our loss and pain; we have stood knee-deep in the ashes of our brokenness.

God of our lives, out of the dust of creation you have formed us and given us life. May these ashes not only be a sign of our repentance and death, but be a reminder that by your gift of grace in Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, we are granted life forever with you. Amen
(Thomas M Shuman)

Week 2: The Shell as a symbol of Baptism and pilgrimage

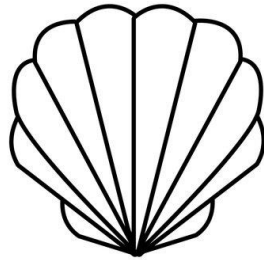
Add the shell to your stone.

Historically, Lent was the time when converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. Jesus began his ministry after his baptism.

Read the story of Jesus baptism ([Luke 3: 21-22](#)) reflecting on the Baptism promises we make. And remember that we are pilgrims on a journey, the family of God. Pray for the whole church of God - Brothers, Sisters, as Companions on a journey of faith:

Brother, sister let me serve you.

Let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.



We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister let me serve you.
Let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

Week 3: Stones and prayers

While in the wilderness, Jesus was invited to transform stone into bread. Though he resisted the temptation, he became renowned for feeding people who were hungry for food, or for love, or for a word of encouragement and acceptance. Think about stony places in yourself that might need transforming. Read the story of Zacchaeus ([Luke 19: 1-10](#)). Where Jesus teaches about transformation and making better choices. Reflect whether there is a place in your life where you could make better choices.

Week 4: LIGHT - tea light

Lent begins in the darkness of late winter and ends in the new life of spring.

Read [John 1: 1-14](#). John's Gospel also tells us that Jesus is the Light of the World and says to his disciples (including us): 'You are the light of the world. Don't hide it under a bushel'.

Pray that we will be shining lights.

Why not sing?: This little light of mine and think about how you let your light shine.



Week 5: Human figure - peg doll

Because Jesus was fully divine, he understands us from inside out, and knows that we are capable of great and Godly things.

No matter what we do, he keeps inviting us to join us in his work.

Read the story of Jesus washing the disciples feet ([John 13: 1-17](#)).

Reflect on how we we can live more like Jesus.

Why not use your peg doll figure to pray for someone?

