



Diocese of Bristol

Families growing faith at home

Church@Home is a fantastic resource that has been created to encourage and help church families enjoy a time of worship, explore the Bible, pray together and grow in their faith in the comfort of their own homes.

Every Sunday **Church@Home** provides a fun, engaging and easy-to-follow session using a Bible reading selected from the Church of England Lectionary. Each session lasts approximately twenty minutes and provides age-related material for toddlers to teenagers to accommodate everyone in the family. Thought-provoking questions, fun activities and crafts bring the Bible story to life as well as creative prayer ideas to help families focus, learn and grow in their faith together. Additional teaching and craft suggestions are also provided for families with very young children.

Church@Home can also be used as a fun way to help families connect with other families on Sunday mornings too during this time of distancing. Invite everyone to begin **Church@Home** at the same time and perhaps set up a WhatsApp group where families can share what they have done, or discuss the topic further together.

If your family or families in your church are using **Church@Home** please let us know. We would like to keep in contact, find out how you are doing as well as hear how **Church@Home** is helping families grow in their faith, so that we can share and inspire others during this time of distancing.

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Thank you ❤️



Sunday 5 April 2020
6th Sunday in Lent - Palm Sunday

Making an entrance

Matthew 21v1-11

Time to focus...

Find a place on the floor, around a table or even in the garden, if possible, light a candle to mark the beginning of the worship time. Quietly stare at the flame watching the flames flicker and glow. Pause as you prepare for a time of worship as a family...

Set the scene...

Today is Palm Sunday. The waiting was over – the promised King was finally coming into Jerusalem and the people crowded the streets to cheer his arrival. Often called the Triumphant Entry, this wave of popularity would be short lived for Jesus. Yet in that special moment we get a hint of the final return of Christ...

Question time...

- What does a normal king look like? What is their job?
- What do you imagine a parade would look like for a king that everyone loved?

Watch the story...

Here is a great retelling of Palm Sunday called '**The triumphal entry**'

Explore the story...

Wow, this was a big parade – and Jesus deserved it. Remember how he had travelled all over Israel helping people, performing miracles, and telling them about God's love. Now Jesus was coming to the capital, the most important city. The people cheered for Jesus with words from the Bible (read v9) this was a big victory celebration, and everyone was excited to see what would happen next.

The triumphal entry was something the Bible had been promising for hundreds of years - look up Zechariah 9:9. It was all finally coming together, and the people were going crazy! Jesus rode on a donkey into Jerusalem. Jesus is the King of Kings and so He was riding like a king. The people celebrated His arrival. They were worshiping Him.

Discuss together the main points of the story - what did you each enjoy about the story? Brainstorm different ways we can worship Jesus.

End with a prayer...

You will need a large sheet of paper (as large as you can find) with the words 'Hosanna!' and 'Alleluia!' outlined on it in large letters. The crowd greeted Jesus like he was a king or a great hero. Who is your hero? Who do you really admire and look up to? Why?

Say thank you to God for that person by writing/decorating their names on the paper with the craft materials you have around the home (felt-tips, glitter, glue, stickers etc.) to reflect how special they are.



Sunday 5 April 2020
6th Sunday in Lent - Palm Sunday

Making an entrance

Creative ideas / toddlers to teenagers

Worship: a high energy song to dance to... **"God suit on"**

Activity 1: Make a palm cross following the step-by-step guidelines and great pictures, **here** - simply use paper that you have around the house and cut it into thin strips.

Activity 2: Create a lovely palm leaf picture. If you do have paints in the house, draw and cut around hands, or make a palm leaf out of building bricks - be creative! >>>

Extras: No paints? Check out pg.4 for some easy recipes.

0-5s...



Worship: a high energy song to dance to... **"God suit on"**

Activity 1: Make a palm cross following the step-by-step guidelines and great pictures, **here** - simply use paper that you have around the house and cut it into thin strips.

Activity 2: How well do you know the Easter story? Can you put the events of Holy week into the correct order - have a go using the activity sheet on pg.5.

5-11s...

? 1) Have you ever made a grand entrance?
What happened?

2) How did the crowd react to Jesus' grand entrance?

3) Why do you think we have palm crosses on Palm Sunday?

+ Thank God that Jesus was not the King that the people expected.

> Create a cross to put in a window during Holy Week so everyone can see it.

11-18s...

"Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." **Zechariah 9:9**

Baby-safe paint recipe...

Here is a very simple recipe for baby-safe paint if you don't have any at home and your young children would like to have a go at making palms with their hands.

- Mix half a cup of milk with 1 tsp flour in a small bowl until there are no lumps.
- Put the mix in a pan and cook on a low heat. Stir continuously so it does not stick to the base of the pan. This gives you a good thick white base.
- Once you have your desired consistency add ½ tsp of oil to give a smooth texture. Mix well.
- Let it cool down.
- Divide into bowls/an ice cube tray and add edible food colour with a toothpick. This will keep in the fridge for a few days.



Search the internet for various recipes to suit dietary needs and what ingredients you have including ones made with yoghurt!

Rainbows...

Have you seen a rainbow in a window near you as you have taken your daily exercise? Did you know it is part of a social media campaign to keep people's spirits up?



God used a rainbow in the story of Noah to send a message of hope. The people in the ark had to wait a very long time for the waters to go down; there was a fair amount of difficulties too, very much like today and what we are experiencing with Covid-19.

The story could be a safe way of opening up some questions with your children. Best of all it ends with a covenant - it doesn't dodge the hard issues but it holds out hope grounded in the promise of God's love.

Have you made your own rainbow yet? Be creative and send a message of hope to everyone that walks past your window.



The road to Easter...

What happened during Holy Week?

Starting with Palm Sunday, put the events in the order in which they happened...

START

Palm Sunday

11. 10. 9. 8. 7. 6. 5. 4. 3. 2. 1.

Jesus is questioned by Pilate

There is darkness at noon

Jesus is put on the cross

Jesus prays in Gethsemane

Judas kisses Jesus

Jesus cleans up the temple

Jesus is wrapped in linen cloth

Peter denies knowing Jesus

Jesus and the disciples eat together

Jesus gets a crown of thorns

Jesus is arrested

Either cut out the squares and glue them on the road or write the event in the correct square.