

The Parish Churches of Maxton & Mertoun linked with Newtown linked with St Boswells
Reflections for 6th April 2020
Holy Week – Monday



Holy Week gives us the opportunity to accompany Jesus on his final journey. On that journey, he suffered betrayal, torture, crucifixion, and death. It gives us insight into the fickleness of the human heart, but also the immense compassion of God.

This year the journey for Christians is different, our Church buildings are closed, we are living in our homes, most of us being isolated from family, friends and neighbours and those who live alone are even more isolated. But we are not alone completely – for we know, that our Lord, our God, our Heavenly Father, The Trinity is with us. We are pilgrims walking together, even if it is just in our homes and gardens at this time. But we journey on, reflecting and praying, for those we know and for all in our world at this time of uncertainty within society.

Prayer

On this new day Father God, as we reflect on that final journey, along with the people who were following our Lord Jesus not knowing what was happening. We pray that you would give us strength at this time, as we walk this familiar journey reading at his time about those final days, knowing the outcome, knowing that your compassion and love for us knows no end. We give you thanks Dear Lord and Father of all mankind.

Following on from our Reading from Palm Sunday, we read together: Matthew 21: 12 - 17

Reflection

So Jesus went into the Temple courts, he did not like what he saw going on. The image portrayed is one of anger, although there may be some who don't agree, as some find it difficult to contemplate Jesus being angry, but it is obvious that he did not approve of what was happening, hence his physical and vocal outburst. It makes me wonder about what Jesus would think of what happens inside our Churches today.

What Jesus does next is interesting: Although he has not approved of those who were doing the selling and buying, changing money and selling sacrifices, he still shows his divinity and compassion to those who were in need, to those who were on the outside, the fringes of society and heals those who come to him. After all, he says he came to help, to lead, to show the way. It is also interesting – I think; that it is children that the writer of Matthew tells us that catch on to who he is. There shouting and making a noise is not what the chief priests want to be hearing – I love his exchange with the chief priests who are not amused and ask him if he knows what the children are referring to: “From the lips of children and infants” he says “you have ordained praise”. We are all children of God, whether we a babes or have lived a long time. But we all equally are loved by God, accepted by God, and we can turn to him

at any time. As we journey this week, perhaps we can use this time we have to let God fill our hearts and lives all over again, to count our blessings, to seek his forgiveness.

Blessing: Today's Irish Celtic Blessing is one that a member felt was speaking to them at this time:

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.