

St Marc, Grenoble  
Sunday 10th April 2022 (Palm Sunday)  
Luke 19: 28 - 40  
Psalm 118: 1-2, 19 - 29  
Zechariah 9: 9 - 12  
**'The Lord needs it'**

Good morning everyone, both here and joining on Zoom. It is really good to be back in Church!

**Let's Pray.** I'm doing something a little different this morning:

First, I'm going to do a dramatic reading - written by Nick Fawcett entitled 'What's going on here'; then, I'll invite you to comment and after that I'll add some reflections of my own.

Read (No Ordinary Man 2 by Nick Fawcett. No. 43, p. 157)

Sermon:

I wonder what was going through your mind, as you listened to the Gospel reading and then that reflection? Probably not what was going through mine...

Have you ever had your car towed away for a parking infringement?? It's only happened to me once, quite a while ago; and that was when someone had borrowed it ... and they couldn't understand why I was upset!

And, in retrospect neither can I – after all, by the time I heard about it, my car had been safely retrieved, and the fine had been paid.

But, I was upset, a sense of violation ... probably because my friend hadn't asked me if he could borrow the car. But I was away, and he knew I wouldn't mind, because he needed it to help someone. And, he was right; I was happy to help; but cross that he'd been careless enough to get it towed away.

Obviously, the person who saw his donkey being taken away was not happy either. But, once he realised who needed it, he was pleased to lend it.

What an amazing thought – The King of Kings, riding in procession on a borrowed donkey – or, actually, its foal. Throughout His ministry on earth Jesus, the King of Kings, turned all established expectations on their head.

This is the King, who truly cares for the downtrodden, the oppressed, the outcast. Jesus is King indeed, but no ordinary one ...

Through history there have been many triumphal processions into Jerusalem by conquering emperors. At that time the city was occupied by the Romans and people were hoping to kick them out.

In those days, Kings may have arrived on the back of war horses, in chariots, possibly even on camels; but, without a doubt, this was the only victory parade into the city, where the triumphant king rode on a donkey.

Jesus is a King without doubt, but not an ordinary one.

Jesus was, and is, the king of fishermen, tax collectors, Samaritans, prostitutes, blind men, demoniacs and cripples.

Today, those people would be tram and taxi drivers, farm workers, refugees and asylum seekers, homeless folk, addicts and paraplegics.

Some of the people following Jesus were a rag-tag bunch of dreamers; with no chance of fulfilling their dreams of throwing out the Romans; and installing Jesus as their new earthly king to rule in Jerusalem, which wasn't of course what was in Jesus' mind

The cloaks thrown down on the ground in His path, were not expensive velvet cloaks of the wealthy assuring Him of their loyalty. No, these were tattered shawls, and dusty sweat-stained rags.

Jesus was, and is, the King of the oppressed, the suffering, the rejected and the downtrodden.

He shared their hardships, relieved their suffering, accepted them when no-one else would even come near, He gave them hope and showed them the real power of God's unconditional love.

But, the people with Jesus in that procession had optimistic fantasies, of how Jesus would be their King, and kick out the Romans... But, without a shadow of doubt, Jesus knew that He was entering Jerusalem on His way to a cruel betrayal, and an unbelievably painful death.

**But, Why do you think Jesus needed the donkey??**

**Why did He allow or encourage that procession to happen, when He'd been telling them not to let anyone know He was the Messiah??**

The Jewish leaders wanted to kill Jesus, but they wanted to do it quietly, after the Passover pilgrims had gone home. But, God had very different plans.

Jesus, far from being the conquering King, was to be The Passover Lamb – slain for the redemption of the world. Yes, Jesus was and still is a conqueror. He was going to conquer the powers of death and evil once and for all.

In John 3: 16, 17 we're told: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

So, as we head into Holy Week, ask yourself again why Jesus needed that donkey?? Also, ask yourself – what Jesus needs from you??

Think about it during the week - Holy Week; and try to join us for our reflection on Thursday evening at 8.00pm and again on Friday - Good Friday.

I'd encourage everyone to come along and take the chance to think again about the sacrifice Jesus made for us ...

**Let's Pray**