

Reflection on Mark 11:1-11

This coming Sunday is Palm Sunday. This is the Sunday each year when we remember the day Jesus entered Jerusalem. It was Passover, Jews and Gentile believers came to the city for a great feast and worship in the temple. The Roman authorities were on hand to ensure that nothing would happen to disturb the peace of Rome. But Jesus came this day to make a political statement. He would enter Jerusalem riding a donkey, in fulfillment of prophecy. He was coming to Jerusalem as the messiah, and the Son of God. By the end of the week, he would be dead.

Mark tells us, Jesus sent two of his disciples saying, "go into the village ahead of you, immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt, that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it." (Mark, chapter 11, verse 2) We know this story so well, Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem had the impact of an earthquake with Jerusalem the epicentre. The presence of Jesus shook the city to its very foundations. Here was their King, riding on a borrowed donkey, mobbed by unsophisticated fishermen and country Galileans. Defying the Church and State with palm branches and children's choruses. Jerusalem had never seen anything like it.

The events of Palm Sunday and the example of our Lord teach us to be in the business of rebuking injustice but also relieving injustice. Challenging evil and cleansing evil - and beginning with our own hearts. Worshipping the peace maker but working at peace making.

Be a servant of the Prince of Peace who rode into Jerusalem that first Palm Sunday to die to take away our sins.

Enclosed is your Palm Cross: as you hold it, be reminded of all that the Son of God has done for each one of us.