

# MUSINGS FROM THE MANSE

Palm Sunday Edition – No. 12 – 28th. March. 2021.



The Bible tells us the people cut palm branches and waved them in the air, laid them out on the ground before Jesus as He rode into the city of Jerusalem. OK I know this photo is a coconut palm and in Jerusalem they would have used olive palm branches (I took the photo at

Port Douglass QLD). The palm branch represented goodness and victory and was symbolic of the final victory He would soon fulfil over death. Jesus chose to ride in on a donkey, which directly fulfilled Old Testament prophecy of Zech. 9:9. *"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."* In Biblical times, it was common for kings or important people to arrive by a procession riding on a donkey. The donkey symbolized peace, so those who chose to ride them showed that they came with peaceful intentions. Jesus even then reminded us that He is the Prince of Peace.

When the people shouted "Hosanna!" they were hailing Christ as King. That word actually means "save now," and though in their own minds they waited for an earthly king, God had a different way in mind of bringing true salvation to all who would trust in Him.

The Bible says that Jesus wept for Jerusalem. In the midst of the praise of the moment, He knew in His heart that it wouldn't be long that these same people would turn their backs on Him, betray Him, and crucify Him. His heart broke with the reality of how much they needed a Saviour.

*"As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it, and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—*

*but now it is hidden from your eyes."* Luke 19:41-42. Palm Sunday reminds us that the reign of Christ is far greater than any human mind could ever conceive or plan. People look for someone to fight their battles in the here and now. Yet God had the ultimate plan of sending His Son to fight the final battle over death. This is the greatness of why we celebrate this week. Because of Christ's ultimate sacrifice, we can be set free of death. *"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,'"* John 11:25 In this Holy Week, may God direct our thoughts and attention towards what matters most, Jesus Christ our King and saviour. Let's choose to focus on worshipping our Lord, thanking Him for the gift of His sacrifice, celebrating the power of the Resurrection, and the new life found in Him alone. Grace. **For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.**

John 3.16

On Easter morning we can all shout ...

**Christ is risen, hallelujah!**

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## PUZZLE CORNER

Which of these is not an opera by Giacomo Puccini: Tosca; La Boheme; La Traviata; Madame Butterfly; or Turandot?

Which of these was not a Mr Men character: Mr Messy; Mr Naughty; Mr Topsy-Turvy; Mr Bounce; or Mr Impossible?

Which of these is not a type of pasta: Capellini; Bucatini; Mafalde; Buccellato; or Gemelli?

Which of these is not an African nation: Benin; Nagaland; Egypt; Comoros; or Mali?

Which of these was not a British Prime Minister: George Grenville; Archibald Primrose; John Turner; Arthur Balfour; or John Russell?

No Musings on Easter Day so we wish you a happy and blessed day. Go easy on the chocolate.

Stay safe **Andrew and Jill**