

Below you will find some extra devotional material with suggestions for crafts to cover the period from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday inclusively.

## Palm Sunday

Readings and hymns as per previous sheet

This year we are not able to receive palm crosses in church, if you have a palm cross from a previous year, you could use that. Or you could make a cross from a sheets of A4 to use instead of a palm cross.

Doreen Horn shared a suggest on face book that she heard about which I have included below in case you might like to do something similar:

*The members of Central Church Torquay have been discussing what to do about their traditional Easter floral cross. Because they cannot justify going out to prepare one at the church and few people will be passing anyway. They have decided to prepare individual ones. They can be floral, crated, large or small, on Easter Sunday they will be displaying their own floral crosses in their homes/windows.*

I would suggest that we display a cross from a window starting on Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday then on Easter Sunday, either/or decorate the cross or replace it with a floral cross. Don't worry if you cannot do this

### Palm Sunday prayer

Holy and loving God,  
 help us to tell your story,  
 that in the Passion of your Son Jesus,  
 we are taken beyond our highest aspirations,  
 and beneath our deepest fears.  
 As we follow in the steps of Jesus,  
 on into the city on this Palm Sunday,  
 may we sense the joy yet prepare ourselves  
 to share the tears.  
 Make us strong to follow Jesus,  
 so that, within ourselves,  
 we know the peace that passes all  
 understanding  
 and the love that knows no limits.  
 In the name of Jesus, our Saviour,  
**Amen.**

## Maundy Thursday

This is usually observed in the church by have a fellowship meal sometimes this can be more symbolic with elements from a Jewish Seder meal being shared, this would then be followed by the sharing of Holy Communion. Words and reflections then take us through the events that took place after the meal that Jesus shared with his disciple, the garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus anxiety can be sensed from how he prays and how he speaks to his disciples. His arrest and the scattering of the Disciples.

Read Mark 14:12-57

### Hymns

H&P 594 An upper room did our Lord prepare,

H&P 169 Jesus in the olive grove

### Prayer

Lord God,  
 You sent your Son into the world,  
 And before his hour had come,  
 He washed his disciples' feet.  
 You had given all things into his hands.  
 He had come from you, and was going to  
 you,  
 And what did he do?  
 He knelt down on the floor,  
 And washed his friends' feet.  
 He was their teacher and their Lord,  
 Yet he washed their feet.  
 Lord God, help us learn from his example;  
 Help us to do as he has done for us.  
 The world will know we are his disciples  
 If we love one another.  
 Strengthen our hands and our wills for love  
 And for service.  
 Keep before our eyes the image of your Son,  
 Who, being God, became a Servant for our  
 sake.  
 All glory be to him who lives and reigns with  
 you and the Holy Spirit,  
 One God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Good Friday

Today starts with the trial mockery of Jesus, along with the whipping that he received, then the painful journey to the cross.

Mark 15:1-47

### Hymns

H&P 178 there is a green hill far away,

H&P 180 when I survey the wonderous cross

### At the Cross (poem)

I wait,  
 And time ticks past.  
 I gaze,  
 Made silent by the sight.  
 I watch,  
 As soldiers meticulously move  
 Executing each terrible, torturous task.  
 I gasp,  
 Still life lingers in His fragile, broken form.  
 I flinch,  
 As blow by blow,  
 Nails bite deep through flesh to find wood.  
 I stand  
 As He is lifted high,  
 Silhouetted 'gainst the sky which He has  
 made.  
 I weep  
 As His cry echoes deep in my hardened,  
 calloused heart.  
 I wail,  
 As He screams 'it is complete,  
 Finished, final, said and done.'  
 I fall,  
 As the sky turns inky black  
 And the sun and moon and stars forget to  
 shine.  
 I kneel,  
 As worlds collide,  
 And time ticks by;  
 What once bound, no longer seems to hold.  
 I bow,  
 For part of me is gone,  
 Kept forever on Calvary's painful peak.

I wait,

At the foot of the cross, to begin my journey  
 home.

*Andy Stinson - April 2011*

### Prayer

Lord God,  
 Jesus cried out to you on the cross,  
 "Why have you forsaken me?"  
 You seemed so far from his cry  
 And from his distress.  
 Those who stood at the foot of the cross  
 Wondered where you were,  
 As they saw Jesus mocked and shamed and  
 killed.  
 Where were you then?  
 Lord God,  
 We, too, ask where you are,  
 When there is trouble and suffering and  
 death,  
 And we cry out to you for help.  
 Be near to us, and save us  
 So that we may praise you for your  
 deliverance.  
 Lord God,  
 We wait, on Friday, for the resurrection of  
 Sunday  
 And sometimes our lives seem a succession  
 of Fridays  
 And we cannot see what is "Good."  
 Teach us to call your name  
 As Jesus did.  
 Make us to trust in you like little children.  
 In Jesus' name,  
**Amen.**

## Easter Sunday

Hymns and readings as per previous sheet

Jesus is risen! For us, today is a great celebration. How different it was for the women and the disciples on that first Easter morning. They approached the tomb with deep sadness. How different it was for the two travelers on the road to Emmaus as night was approaching. By the end of the day they were celebrating seeing Jesus alive, though they were not exactly sure what that meant.

### Prayer

As God's Easter people, let us celebrate a new beginning,  
filled with the presence of our risen Lord.

We thank you that Easter is not about a people, but all people,  
that your love and your Salvation are for all who confess  
with voices, hearts and lives  
that the tomb is empty  
because Jesus is risen,  
that we might know  
forgiveness,  
that lives might be  
reborn  
and your name  
glorified  
now and for eternity.

**Amen**

A prayer that could be used on Sunday evenings and at any other time during this period of isolation

God of all hope we call on you today.  
We pray for those who are living in fear:  
Fear of illness, fear for loved ones, fear of other's reactions to them.  
May your Spirit give us a sense of calmness and peace.

We pray for your church in this time of uncertainty.  
For those people who are worried about attending worship.  
For those needing to make decisions in order to care for other  
For those who will feel more isolated by not being able to attend.  
Grant us your wisdom.

Holy God, we remember that you have promised that  
Nothing will separate us from your love – demonstrated to us in Jesus Christ.  
Help us turn our eyes, hearts and minds to you.

**Amen**

[An intercessory prayer](#)

You call us to speak to you in prayer– even when the places we would usually go to are not available.

Help us to know your Spirit's presence wherever we pray.

Today we especially pray for those who are living in fear – give them your strength.

For those who have not yet realised the urgency of the situation – protect them, and all of us from harm.

Today I especially want to pray for .....

In the name of Jesus. **Amen**