

"Hosanna!


"Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

"Hosanna in the highest heaven!" (Mark 11 v 10).

Jesus enters Jerusalem on a young colt, never before ridden. Crowds lay down their cloaks and take palm branches to line his path before him. He is heralded by some as the Messiah they have been expecting, and yet so different to what they had imagined. This is no Warrior Leader: this is the humble Servant King who is looking to the Cross that will bring salvation to all - including those who will wave branches in praise as well as those who will raise fists in violence and bay for his blood. The cries of "Hosanna" will soon turn to "Crucify"... but we are not there yet.

For now, we are part of the welcoming crowd that embraces Jesus into the City of Jerusalem, or today into the City of Sheffield. We see him walking through our streets past the commercial world to the heart of the City. What does he see? Our streets today are not busy as Jerusalem would have been, as we are still in lockdown. Yet the city centre still has those who could greet him: those begging, those homeless, those lost in the worries that weigh them down. Are these some of the people today who would be glad to see Jesus arrive in their City as he stands alongside them, giving them a voice? And who are the voices today who shout "Crucify" because this is not the Jesus they expect - a Jesus who seems more respectable and careful to them?

God bless you all as we walk together in Holy Week. Lisa.



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