

For the week beginning Monday 14th April 2025 **A snapshot of Holy week**

Every year, during Holy week I am reminded afresh of the Humility, Grace and Love shown by Jesus, especially during the days leading up to His crucifixion. He knew what was to come and yet He continued ministering, loving and teaching up to the last. He entered Jerusalem triumphantly – a time of great joy and celebration. I imagine there may have been thousands of people in Jerusalem at that time, gathering for the Passover. That night He and the twelve went to a quieter Bethany where He spent time in the company of His friends, Mary, Martha and Lazarus and Simon the Leper.

The week continued with Jesus, amongst other things, entering the Temple and overturning the tables of money changers and sellers. We read that He said, *"It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer,' but you have made it a den of robbers."* **Luke 19:46**

Whilst in Bethany, the narrative of the woman approaching Jesus and anointing his head with oil shocked His disciples, but Jesus said, *"Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."* **Matthew 26:10-13**

On Thursday we read of the Last Supper, the meal before Jesus's crucifixion, symbolising the new Covenant between God and humanity: the Eucharist instituted by Jesus as a symbol of His love and sacrifice for us all; an everlasting memorial of His death and resurrection. There are many accounts of this and I especially like the account according to **Luke 22:7-30**

And then we come to Friday and the 'Stations of The Cross' – 14 events on this last day of Jesus's human life and witnessed by countless numbers of people. Eventually, Jesus is nailed to a cross at Golgotha. There is a criminal on each side of Him, also being crucified.

We read of Jesus's seven last words, spoken as He hung on the cross and punctuated by what must have been the most excruciating pain, yet conveying His unimaginable depth of love and compassion for humanity.

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do",

"Truly, I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise",

"Woman, behold your son! Son, behold your mother!",

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?",

"I thirst",

"It is finished",

"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit".

Saturday – a strange day after the event; He is gone but He said He would rise again; Will He?.... Where is He? What should we do? and suchlike. A day of being in limbo, of the worst kind I imagine.

A day of quiet contemplation for believers.

Sunday – He is Risen, He is Risen indeed! Praise the Lord! Amen

