

Dear Children, Parents and Grandparents

Church is not about the building, church is about people! During lockdown, we need to make time to learn about God, to worship him, to express our love to him and to love and care for one another just as much, if not more, than during normal times. This is my message of love to you, my attempt to care for you. Each week I will focus on a Bible theme, leading to Easter, and suggest a number of activities you can do. These can be done individually or as a family. I am not going to sort them by age category, as many of them, especially the art activities, can be done by all ages at different levels. I hope that you as a family will have time to reflect, time to pray, time to have fun and time to worship together. I will ask Uncle Mike to put this on the website as well. I am sorry I am late with it this week – my husband has come home from hospital and life has been so busy.

If you want to, you can send me a picture/video of your art, song or dance (phone 083 5552966), or you can put it on to the St Kieran's Facebook page, or email it to me (ejvanbelle@gmail.com) . I can ask Uncle Mike to put it on to the church website as well!

My themes for the next three weeks will be as follows:

Week 1: Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem

Week 2: The last Supper

Good Friday: Jesus death in our place

Easter Sunday: He has risen!

Week 1: Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem

Aim: to recognise and declare who Jesus is.

Bible passage: Matthew 21:1-17

1. **Read** the passage in the Bible or a Children's Bible.
2. **Story with sound effects**: Can you find something in your home that will sound like a donkey's footsteps? What other sounds are there in the story? Can you make them? Tell the story to each other using sound effects.
3. **Riding the donkey**. *You will need a broom, some paper, sticky tape or Prestik.* Turn your broom into a donkey by adding some long ears. You can ride the donkey in turn, pretending to be Jesus, and the others can cheer and shout and put down their

clothes for you to ride on. You can use the following as a praise chant:

Hail King Jesus, riding into town!
Riding on a donkey, throw your jackets down!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hail King Jesus, riding into town!

4. **Put Jesus on the donkey.** *You will need paper, cardboard, scissors, pencil or wax crayons, Prestik.* Draw a picture of a donkey. Draw a picture of Jesus, sitting down. Stick both onto cardboard (eg an empty cereal box). Stick the donkey on to a wall. Put a bit of Prestik behind the Jesus drawing as well. One at a time, blindfold a child, give him/her the Jesus drawing, turn him round a few times and ask him to stick Jesus onto the donkey.
5. **Making palm leaves.** *You will need coloured paper (newspaper or old magazines will do), scissors, sticky tape or Prestik.* Fold the paper in half. Draw half a leaf shape on the paper. Cut it out. Cut different sizes and shapes of leaves and use them to decorate your house. As you stick them up, remind yourself that the children and adults used these to praise Jesus. How would you praise Jesus today?
6. **Make your own musical instruments.** *You will need any junk you can find!* Using pots, cutlery, graters, toilet roll inners, empty jars, beans, lentils, stones, pieces of wood, tin foil or anything else that comes to mind that your parents allow you to use, create your own instruments. Make a joyful noise to the Lord!
7. **Make up your own praise song/rap/chant.** *You will need paper and pencil.* As an individual or a family, write your own praise song to Jesus. You can use a tune you know or make up your own. Sing it together! Use the musical instruments you made!

8. **Make a praise flag/banner.** *You will need a piece of paper/cloth, one or two stick(s), glue or sticky tape, crayons, pencil crayons, paint and or felt tip pens.* Ask your mom for a piece of white/off white cloth or use a piece of paper. The cloth need not be new. A flag will have a stick on one side, a banner will have a stick on both sides. Decorate it in such a way that the colours and designs will reflect the love and joy that Jesus gives you. Stick the stick(s) to the sides. Make sure the sticks are longer than the sides so that you can hold on to it. When it is made, you can use it to decorate your room, or dance with it.
9. **Praise ball game.** *You will need a balloon or scrunched up paper ball, real or pretend big leaves (eg strelizia leaves). Check leaves for thorns . Some thing to use as a goal, eg cardboard box, chair.* Blow up the balloon. By yourself or with a family member, use the leaves to try and get it into the goal. Touching the balloon is not allowed. When you get a goal, shout “Hosanna!”
10. **Things to think about:**
- Jesus rode a donkey, not a horse. A horse is a war animal, a donkey is a humble, everyday working animal and form of transport. Look again at v 5. Why do you think Jesus chose to ride a donkey instead of a horse?
 - Jesus attracted a crowd. We are now in lockdown, each family in their own house. What is Jesus asking of us so that we can celebrate him as king?
 - Verse 10: When Jerusalem was celebrating Jesus, some people were asking “Who is this?” If someone asked you “Who is Jesus?” or “Who is Jesus to you?” what would you say?
 - What does the word “Hosanna” mean? The chief priests were angry because who was singing to Jesus? Look at Jesus’ reply in verse 16. Children are very important to Jesus, and

sometimes children take the lead. What does God call you to do?

11. Things to pray about:

- A lot of people are living in fear right now, afraid of what the Coronavirus will do to our society and afraid to catch it. While we must obey the law, stay in our house and act sensibly, today's story is not about fear but about JOY. "The joy of the Lord is our strength." Pray for joy in your heart, and the ability to spread joy to others.
- Make a list of all the things you can praise God for, and praise him!
- Pray for those who are sad, lonely and fearful during this time. Ask God what you can do to help them.

That's all for now – till next week!

Please let us know if you have any special need.

Much love

Auntie Eva