

Powerscourt with Kilbride
**God's Word for
this Week**

Palm Sunday
28th March 2021



This Week's Theme
'Redefining Leadership'

Fr Richard Rohr, in a Sermon in 2012 mentioned the fact that a man entering a major city, dressed in ordinary clothes and riding on a donkey in Jesus' time wouldn't necessarily be given a second glance. He was a nobody in other words. But this is what Jesus consciously wants to say; That his leadership is not to be one of domination, authority and power but of servanthood and of humility. Two thousand years after Jesus most of Western Christianity may not have got the message. If we are honest, we can still be impressed by the 'big' people rather than the little people; we easily turn our attention towards show and procession, particularly now online with the whole world at our fingertips. What we fail to see, in some circumstances, is that God continually comes into the world on a little donkey in the places of poverty and suffering. This concept is beautifully expressed by the words of the Epistle this week 'though he was in the form of God, he did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.' For this, God exalted him and those who followed him in the first century A.D proclaimed that 'Jesus is Lord!' a simple three words that went against the Roman declaration 'Caesar is Lord!'. By saying these words, Jesus' followers – this new group of nobodies – declared a new understanding of a different reign, a different kingdom and a different kind of leadership. It's not a leadership that provides edicts and commands

but quietly goes ahead and does it itself first. Servant leadership goes ahead and does the job with love. And that is what Jesus is going to do this week. He is going to quietly humbly walk the journey and our desire and hope and prayer is that we can walk the journey with him.

Fr. Richard Rohr,
Palm Sunday 2012.

The Collect

*Almighty and everliving God,
in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son
our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature,
and to suffer death upon the cross,
giving us the example of his great humility:
Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering,
and also share in his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

<i>The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens-- awakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;</i>	<i>I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?</i>
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The Epistle

Philippians 2:5-11



*Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death-- even
death on a cross.*

Therefore God also highly exalted him

*and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.*

The Gospel

Mark 11:1-11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna!

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

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.



