

Stay Connected – Sunday 24th March

Palm Sunday

This Week's Reading

This week's reading was a composite for Palm Sunday and you may read it here:

The Bible Reading is from Mark Chapter 11 and John Chapter 12

When Jesus and his disciples were approaching Jerusalem, near the Mount of Olives, a great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming. They took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him and 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 shouted,
"Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:

"Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered the things had been written about him and the things that had been done to him.

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ

Peter's Blurb

*O Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.
Peace be within thy walls, and plenteousness within thy palaces.*

Happy Palm Sunday. Hosanna!

And here we are at the beginning of Holy Week. And we celebrated in good style. We had a lively service today when we commenced our service with a Blessing for Phoenix, the four-week old infant son of Graham and Shonette Smith. Well attended by a cadre of godparents, Fr. Gav led the family through a lovely liturgy of prayer, commitment and blessings. It was somehow an appropriate counterpoint between baby Phoenix coming to Jesus for the first time and the journey of Jesus to Jerusalem for his final time. We welcomed the family and their friends for refreshments after the service and we hope that they enjoyed the opportunity to meet with us. A special Welcome cake was provided too – I don't know by whom but it was a lovely finishing touch to beautiful occasion.

Preceding his talk Fr. Gav mustered the youngsters who then processed from the back of the church waving palm fronds to shouts of Hosanna! Hosanna! The cry was taken up by the rest of the congregation and so inspired was Fr. Gav that he was overcome by an attack of beat-boxing to great effect 😊 His talk was a "kid"-friendly one too.

Some appropriate music selections rounded out a happy and joyful service. The morning concluded with super refreshments provided by Annie and, I think likely, her sister Joanne. Thanks to them both for making the day complete. 😊

Looking at Holy Week in more detail we will be holding the Agape Supper in conjunction with Maundy Thursday on, well, on Thursday. Then for Good Friday morning we will be combining this year with Holy Trinity. Easter Sunday, the day itself, will commence with an Easter Sunrise service at Tucker's Point Golf Club – first right inside the property, drive to the end – where we shall be rewarded with a "break fast" of Hot Cross Buns and Coffee.

Details of all these will be found lower down in the body of the newsletter.

Finally, back to St. Mark's for our 9.30 Easter Sunday celebration complete with Kidz Easter Bingo in the Hall. [Please sir, may I be excused choir next Sunday 😊]

Apologies for ending on an unhappy note but sad to report that Norman Brown died in Boston where he had gone for treatment last week. Our love and prayers go out to Anne, one of our choir members, and to their son Hywel and his family at this sad time. Norman has been a musician all his life playing organ in various churches over the decades including St. Peters and Chapel of Ease. He was a piano tuner and also manufactured and repaired stringed instruments. He will be hugely missed. May he rest in peace.

Have a great week!

Peter

Fr. Gav's Talk

The text of Fr. Gav's Talk may be watched/listened to here:

<https://youtu.be/morieZyYa7s>

Fr. Gav's Article

The text of Fr. Gav's article in last Saturday's RG is the same as last week's Talk but can be found here:

<https://www.royalgazette.com/religion/lifestyle/article/20240323/what-is-god-calling-us-to-do/>

From the Distaff Side

Helen's Talk – What does Jesus look like?

In Junior Church we were drawing pictures of Jesus entering into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. We started with a large collaborative picture, then individual pictures. The children all began by sketching the donkey, with varying degrees of success. One child drew Jesus astride the colt as a stick figure with bright pink hair, and another drew him in jeans and a T-shirt.

One little boy complained that he couldn't draw Jesus properly, and asked if I could use my phone to show him a photograph of the actual scene for inspiration. I tried to explain that when Jesus rode into Jerusalem, about 2,000 years ago, that there were no cameras or ways of recording images other than artists' impressions of the event. I went on to say that there were lots of drawings of Jesus, but that nobody really knew what he looked like.

One little girl who was yet to add Jesus to her picture announced, "Don't worry Miss Helen," as she began to draw furiously, "they will soon know what he looks like!"

Jesus was a carpenter's son, born in Israel and would have looked just like the other Jewish men around him at the time. There would have been nothing special about his appearance that would have set him apart from others in the crowd. What was on the outside did not matter, because what made Jesus stand out was how he treated those around him. He showed love, compassion and empathy, and stood up for the marginalised. When each of us finally beholds our saviour I pray that we are all able to say the same about ourselves

Pastoral Corner

Home Visitations

Please contact Rev Gav or Helen if you would like to be on the list for home visits.

In our prayers

We ask for your prayers for Gill Rossiter, Kathy-Anne, Sam & Marjorie, Phyllis, Gwyneth & Ralph, Barbara (Dyer), Sonny, Vinette, Marianne, Nancy, Gail, Janet & Gary, Robert & Kalreeta, and continued prayer for the recovery of Sue Pitt. We continue to pray for the family and friends of the late Charles Trott whose funeral was held on Saturday. This week we also hold in prayer Anne Brown and her family as they come to terms with the loss of her beloved Norman. A Funeral service for Norman will be held at St. Peter's at 2.00 p.m. this coming Saturday

Worship Services

This Sunday



This week's video is of highlights from yesterday's service and is available at: <https://youtu.be/morieZyYa7s>

Previous services and other videos are on our YouTube channel. <https://www.youtube.com/StMarksChurchBermuda> and/or our Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarksbermuda/>

Next Sunday

Coming Sunday, 31st March, Easter Sunday, there will be no Peaceful Worship at 8.00 a.m. You may enjoy an Easter Sunrise service with Hot Cross Buns and Coffee at Tucker's Point Golf Club House. Our usual Contemporary Worship celebration will be at 9.30 a.m. as usual. Children and young people will remain in the church during half-term break. There will be no refreshments following the worship.



Notices



Coming Events

- **Agape Supper** – St. Mark's Guild will be hosting this annual event on **Thursday, 28th March at 6.30 p.m.** **SHARP** in the Parish Hall. See poster below for details.
- **Good Friday** – A Good Friday service will be held JOINTLY at Holy Trinity on **Friday, 29th March at 9.30 a.m.** All are welcome.
- **Easter Sunrise Service** – There will be an Easter Sunrise service at **Tucker's Point Golf Club at 7.00 a.m.** on Sunday – first right inside the property, drive to the end – where we shall be rewarded with a “break fast” of Hot Cross Buns and Coffee.
- **Kidz Bingo** – There will be **Kidz Bingo on Easter Sunday** in place of the Easter Egg Hunt of previous years which is vulnerable to weather.
- **Bereavement Support** – A new group is starting at St. Mark's to support those that are bereaved. This is

not a counseling session but an opportunity to stand alongside others in a safe and peaceful place. The first session takes place on **Sunday, 7th April at 3.00 p.m.** More details to follow.

- **Table Top Sale** – There will be a Table Top sale of donated merchandise as a fund raiser for St. Mark's. Any items you may wish to donate will be gratefully received. The sale will take place in the Hall on **Saturday, 20th April from 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.** A good time to re-purpose things you may not have used for years and make some cupboard space for new stuff.
- **Car Boot Sale** – The next Car Boot Sale will be held on **Saturday, 27th April;**

Church Life

Down the Debt – St. Mark's needs your help in reducing the size of our debt which inhibits future investment in our church. If you feel you may be able to help with this please go to <https://stmarks.bm/donate/> where you will find details and an opportunity to donate.

Links:

Just a reminder – if you want to check vot's happnin' or vot's comin' dahn de road – you can find it all at our:

- **Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/stmarksbermuda/>
- **YouTube Channel:** <https://www.youtube.com/StMarksChurchBermuda>
- **Website:** <https://stmarks.bm/>
- **Holy Trinity Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/holytrinitychurchbda>

End Stuff:

Here's a thought. It is always a great time for us all to review our pledging. If each of us is able to increase our pledge by 10% that would be a great boost to our cash flow (which as you know is tenuous at best). And, with our in-person collections still inhibited by numbers restrictions, please consider the opportunity to convert to pledging by Direct Deposit (see below). Your support is vital.

As always, another huge thank you to all of you who continue to support our church family with your pledges and donations via online transfer.

Direct deposits can be made to: Butterfield Bank for the account of:

St. Mark's Church Wardens – A/c No. 20-006-060-104125-100.

- **For Pledge Envelope donations** – if you already have a Pledge envelope number just be sure to enter your Name and Env # e.g. "Nash Env 190" in the **Beneficiary** space on the on-line transfer form.
- **For Grave Payments** – when paying Grave Maintenance fees be sure to enter Grave Number and Name of Lessee e.g. "Grave 273 Peter Nash" in the **Beneficiary** space on the on-line transfer form.
- **For Cash donations** – if you do not have an Envelope # just be sure to also enter your Name and "Donation" e.g. "Nash Donation" in the **Beneficiary** space on the on-line transfer form.

Use of the "Beneficiary" space is IMPORTANT – it is the only way we have to identify who is paying and for what.

Come to St. Mark's – not just a Church but a family!



St. Mark's Guild is hosting

An Agape Supper

Thursday March 28th 2024

6.30 pm Sharp

At St. Mark's Parish Hall

Please come and join us for this traditional

Christian fellowship meal

Tickets: \$10.00

Available from guild members

