

The Easter Tree

Last Updated Sunday, 19 April 2009

Here's some material you can use to step through Easter week. It's aimed mainly at kids, but it would be an equally good resource for personal meditation.

The Easter Tree

Great ways to lead the kids through Holy Week

Beginning your Easter preparation at the beginning of Holy Week, on Palm Sunday, is a great way to help your children to prepare for and understand the suffering and death of Jesus and his resurrection. We have a set of symbols available for you to print out and use with your children through Holy Week. Here are two ways you could use these images:

- Decorate an Easter tree by adding a new symbol each day of Holy Week. (Detailed instructions are included with the images.)
- Set up a family altar area where you can daily add the item (symbol) that helps illustrate the Easter story.

As you add each symbol, read the Bible verse suggested below, and enjoy some lively family discussion around your tree or altar!

Download your ready-to-print colour symbols from
<http://www.stpaulsboxhill.org.au/images/stories/is/2009/04/EasterTreeSymbolsYearB.pdf>

Also available: more ideas for activities in Holy Week at
<http://www.stpaulsboxhill.org.au/images/stories/is/2009/04/HolyWeekActivitiesYearB.pdf>

To click instead of typing all that: on the St Paul's website, from the Resources menu choose Links, then click on Christian Resources.

Palm Sunday

Jesus enters Jerusalem
Symbol: Palm branch or leaves
Read: Matthew 21:1-11
Discuss: What did Jesus do? Why were the people so excited? What were they expecting? What does this story tell us about Jesus?

Holy Thursday

Jesus prays in Gethsemane
Symbol: Praying hands
Read: Mark 14:32-42
Discuss: What did Jesus do? Has God ever answered 'no' to your prayer? What does this story tell us about Jesus?

Holy Monday

Jesus washes his disciples' feet
Symbol: Towel and bowl
Read: John 13:1-17
Discuss: What did Jesus do? Why do you think he did it? What does this story tell us about Jesus?

Good Friday

Jesus is arrested and goes to trial Symbol: Crown of thorns Read: Mark 14:43-65 Discuss: What did Jesus do? Why? What does this story tell us about Jesus?

Holy Tuesday

Jesus says 'I am the bread of life.' Symbol: Pita bread Read: John 6:26-40 Discuss: What does this passage tell us about Jesus? What does God want us to do?

Easter Saturday

Jesus dies on the cross Symbol: A cross Read: Mark 15:22-39 Discuss: What did Jesus do? Why? What does this story tell us about Jesus? Spend some time thinking about of what you are sorry for. Tell Jesus and ask for forgiveness.

Holy Wednesday

Jesus celebrates the Passover Symbol: Bread and cup of wine Read: Matthew 26:17-30 Discuss: What did Jesus do? What is a covenant? Why did Jesus need to 'pour out his blood'? What does this story tell us about Jesus?

Easter Sunday

Jesus lives! Symbol: Butterfly Read: John 20:1-20 Discuss: What did Jesus do? Why were the people so excited? What does this story tell us about Jesus? Who will you tell you about how Jesus died and lives again?

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