CATECHESIS @ HOME

Topic: PALM SUNDAY

Prepared by the KL Archdiocesan Catechetical Centre



Prepared by Dr. Steven Selvaraju, KL Archdiocesan Catechetical Centre. For internal circulation only

INTRODUCTION

The aim of this material was prepared to provide families an opportunity to gather and spend time learning, reflecting and discussing about Palm Sunday. We are aware that it is not possible to have a "one-size fit all" approach to family catechesis, but we hope that the material provided may involve at least the parents and their school-going children.

HOW TO USE THE MATERIAL

The catechetical material provided has some activities that members of the family may do together, while there are others, which may be done individually or in groups. These are activities that may be useful for children, teenagers and adults. Therefore, it would be helpful to print some of the pages, so that different persons or groups may carry out various activities at the same time.

WHEN TO USE THE MATERIAL

It can be used on Palm Sunday itself, or on a day suitable for the family during the Holy Week.

OPENING PRAYER

Loving Father, we gather here in the name of Jesus, Our Lord. As we enter the Holy Week, may we reflect during the coming days how Jesus suffered and died and rose from the dead so that we may have everlasting life. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

SCRIPTURE READING

Invite someone to read from the Gospel of Matthew 21: 1-11.

RECALL ACTIVITIES

The purpose of these activities is to help you recall the key words of the gospel passage that has been read. There are three types of activities. The activities may be done together, in groups or individually.

In the event, the activities are done individually or in groups, then the following steps may be taken.

a. The relevant page for each activity is printed and handed to the individual or groups concerned.

b. A competition as to who completes the activity first may be held.

c. It is proposed that:

Activity A: Below 6 years.
Activity B: Ages 6-12.
Activity C: Ages 13-17s.
Activity D: Above 18 years.

However, there is no hard as fast rules as who is to do which activity. The final choice of activity can be decided by each person.

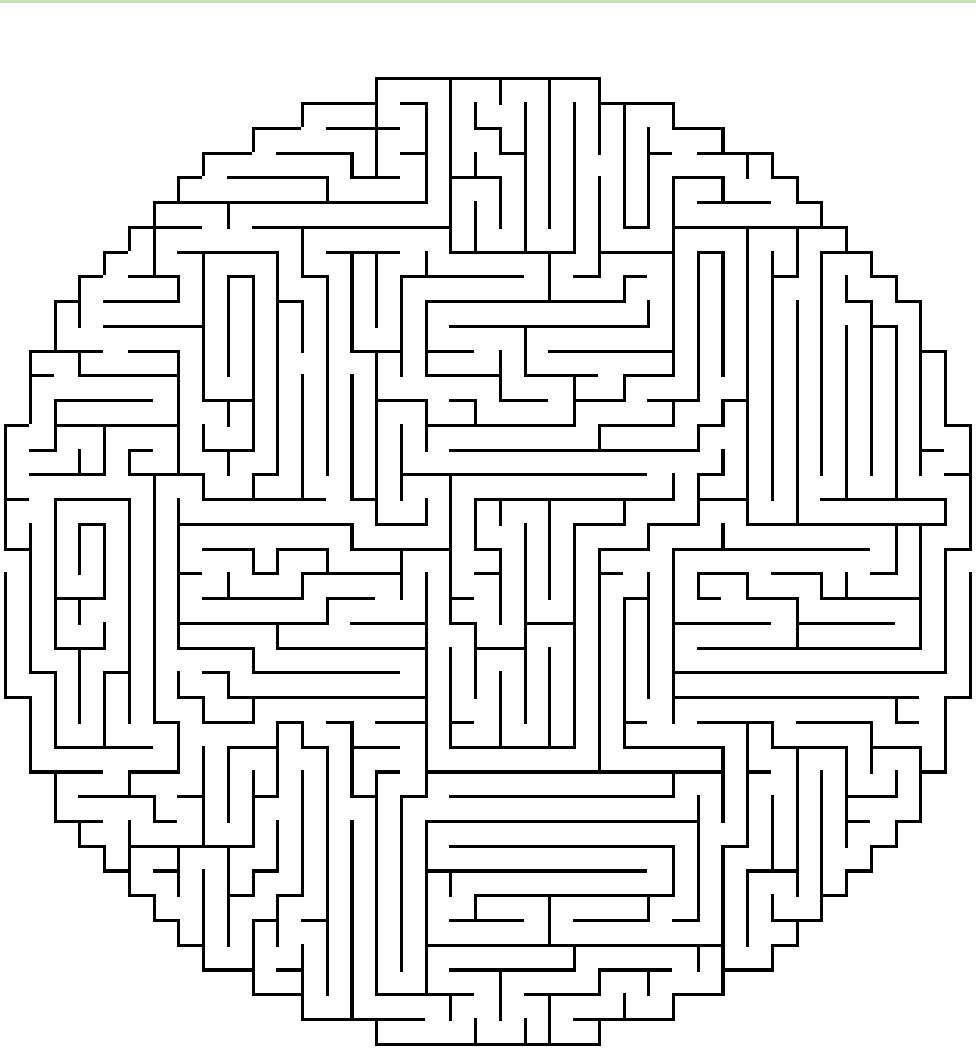
It would be useful to set a certain amount of time for all to complete the activity.

ACTIVITY A – How quickly can you make this picture colourful!



ACTIVITY B – See how quickly you can help Jesus find his way to Jerusalem

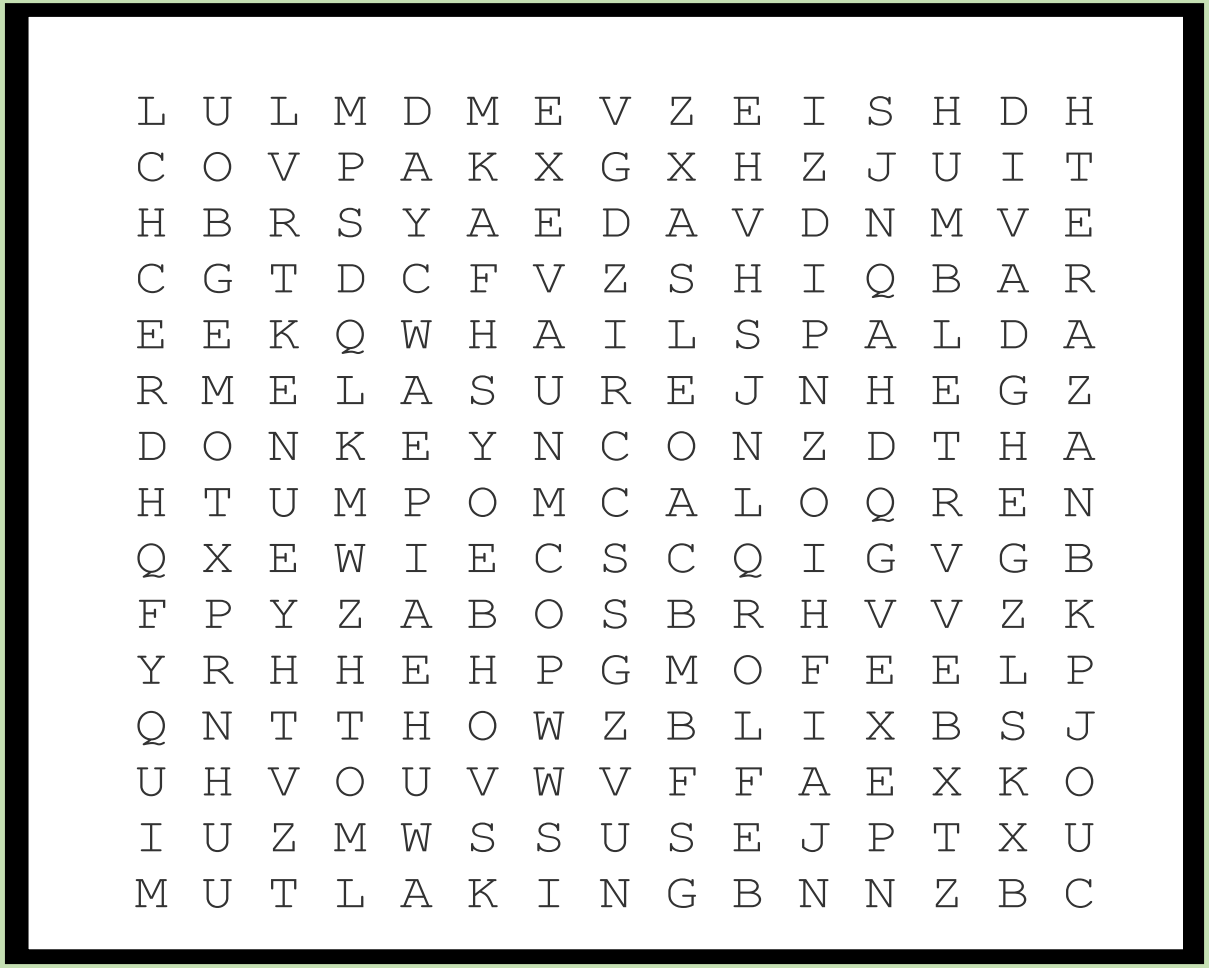






ACTIVITY C– Find the following words in the puzzle.

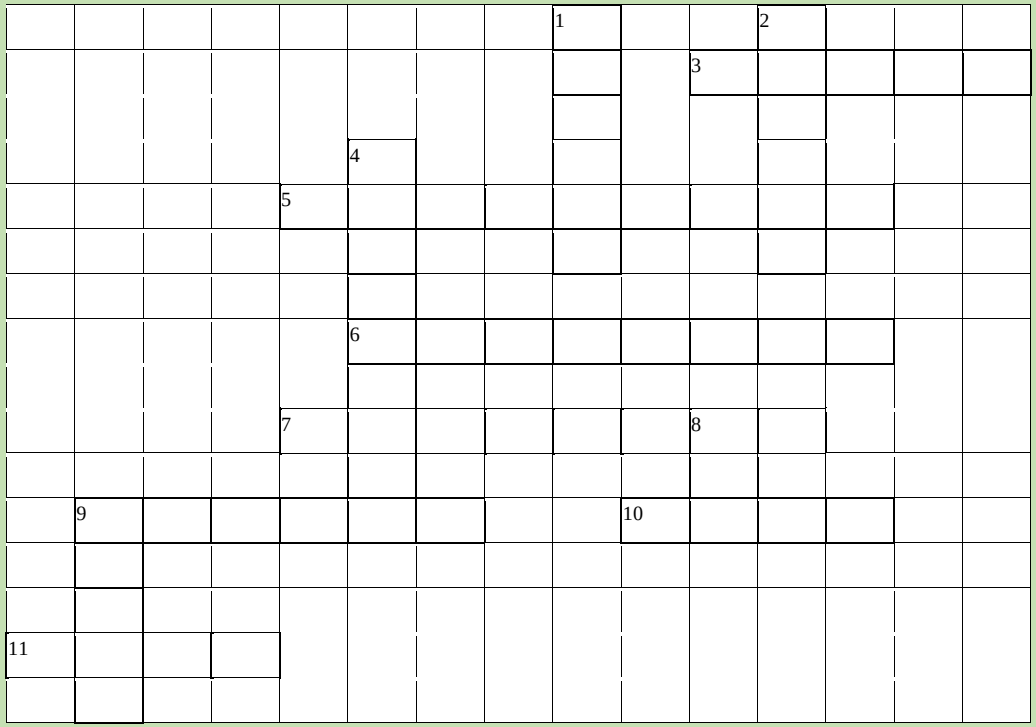
1. BETHPHAGE
2. DAVID
3. DONKEY
4. HOSANNA
5. HUMBLE
6. JERUSALEM
7. JESUS
8. KING
9. LORD
10. MASTER
11. NAZARETH
12. OLIVES
13. PALMS
14. ZION



(Clue: Words may be written forward and backwards, diagonally or up and down).

ACTIVITY D – Solve the puzzle.

Quiz on Palm Sunday (Passion Sunday) - Based on Matthew 21: 1-11)



Across

3 Type of leaves used by the people.
5 The city Jesus was entering.
6 The Jewish being celebrated at that time
7 A town in Galilee.
9 The type of animal Jesus rode on.
10 The other animal brought back by the disciples.
11 Another name for Israel.

Down

1 An English word that means 'Hosanna'.
2 One of the titles used in reference of Jesus.
4 The name of the town to which Jesus sent his disciples.
8 The number of disciples sent by Jesus to fetch the donkey.
9 Jesus was a descendant of this king.

(Answers: page 9)

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What do you personally find meaningful about Palm Sunday?

2. What lesson can you learn from the gospel passage?

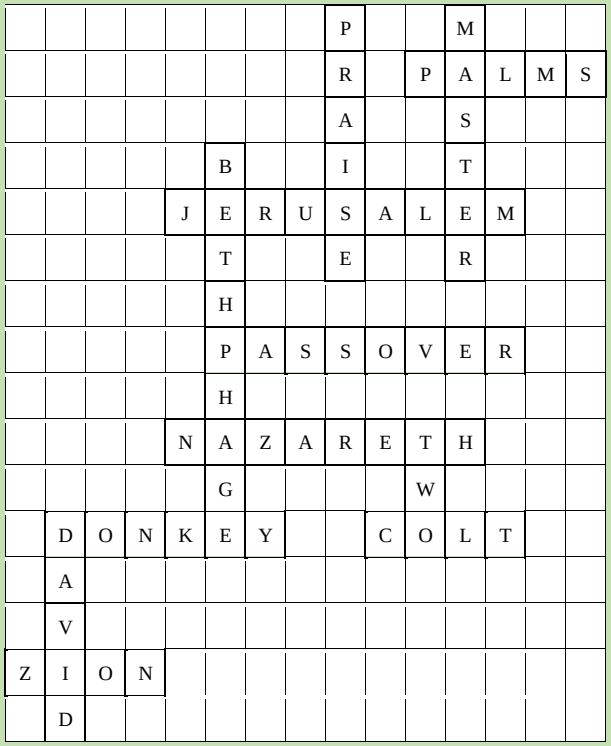
During the time of Jesus, it is usual for people to welcome a king or a very important person into the city by spreading their coats or by placing leaves on the read. It was a way for them to show their admiration, respect and honour for the person. Most kings and important people rode horses. A horse was an animal often associated with war.

Jesus also received admiration and honour from the people. However, instead of a horse, Jesus rode on a donkey, which is an animal often associated with peace and humility. Therefore, Jesus shows us that although he is the King of the whole world, he came to serve others and not to be served. He is a King who brings us love and peace.

Jesus also came to Jerusalem to claim his title as the Messiah. He knew that only through his suffering and death is he able to do this. Although he was aware that he would suffer and die, Jesus did not run away. He could have decided not to come to Jerusalem. But he wanted to be obedient to His Father in heaven, and to complete that the mission His Father has given him.

Jesus teaches us that even though we may be facing challenges and problems, we too should be brave and turn to our Father in heaven for strength and patience. We trust that God will make everything good in His time.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON PALM SUNDAY (Based on Matthew 21: 1-11)



Across

3 Type of leaves used by the people.

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6 The Jewish being celebrated at that time

7 A town in Galilee.

9 The type of animal Jesus rode on

10 The other animal brought back by the disciples.

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Down

1 A word that mean 'Hosanna'.

2 One of the titles used in reference of Jesus.

4 The name of the town Jesus sent his disciples.

8 The number of disciples sent by Jesus to fetch the donkey.

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CONCLUSION

"Palm Sunday", which is also commonly known as "Passion Sunday", marks the start of the Holy Week". On the following days, as a Church, we will journey towards Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday.

Although we are not able to go to church for the celebration of the holy days, let us continue to keep our eyes focused on Jesus. Let us walk with him and feel with him the experiences of his suffering and death so that we may rise with him to new life at Easter.

There are several ways in which you can share the journey of Jesus.

1. Read the bible passages that will be used for the Holy Week Masses and service.

2. Participate in the Masses and Good Friday service that is live-streamed.

3. Pray the rosary as a family for the sick, poor and for the souls of those who have died.

4. Pray for the well-being of your family members, friends, colleagues, nation and the whole world.

5. Find suitable ways to help the poor, the elderly, and those who need our help.

6. Participate in activities to learn more about the Holy Week.

A. Sign up to FORMED. This is an online Catholic platform which provided plenty of Wonderful videos and materials which you can watch for free. The Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur is paying an annual subscription for this platform. Therefore, it is available free of charge to all in the Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur. To sign up:

   a) Visit formed.org with a web browser
   b) Click on Register or Sign Up
   c) Enter the Parish access code: JG2JDZ (the code is the same for all parishes)
   d) Enter your email and create a password (you will need this to login later)

B. Take part in the quiz on Holy Week on Youtube created by the Archdiocesan Catechetical Centre at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZHMgNJt3wjw&t=214s

C. Read suitable materials suggested by your parish priest or catechist.

CLOSING PRAYER

To conclude, pray the Our Father, 3 Hail Mary's and the Glory Be.