

## READINGS

### MONDAY

Mark 11: 12 – 14 Jesus curses the fig tree

Mark 11: 15 – 18 Jesus cleanses the Temple

Isaiah 56: 6 – 7.

### TUESDAY

Tuesday read Matthew 21: 23 – 27 The Authority of Jesus

Read Mark 14: 3 – 9 Jesus anointed at Bethany

### WEDNESDAY

Luke 22: 3 – 6 The Plot against Jesus

John 13:27

### THURSDAY

Matthew 26: 17 – 29 The Last Supper

John 14: 1 – 4 Jesus comforts the disciples

Mark 14: 32 – 42 Gethsemane

### PRAYER

Heavenly Father as we read again the Gospel Story of this most tremendous week in the history of Your world we are humbled by the enormous sacrifice, made on our behalf, by Jesus. We thank you for our reconciliation, salvation and the promise of a place with You in eternity because of this sacrifice. Bless us we pray in the powerful Name of Jesus. AMEN.

# HOLY WEEK



## Reflection for Holy Week / Maundy Thursday

Following the Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday Jesus and His disciples had a busy week which culminated in the “Last Supper” and the events of Good Friday.

Here are some readings and thoughts to reflect on as we begin our journey through this most significant week in world history.

Take time to think about what Jesus did and how we relate to Him and to those around us particularly in these very strange and challenging days.

### **Monday read Mark 11: 12 – 14 Jesus curses the fig tree**

A fig tree in full leaf would indicate that fruit should be present. This tree is exceptional as it is unusual for it to be in full leaf at this time of the year. As it is in full leaf it could be expected to be bearing fruit.

### **Read Mark 11: 15 – 18 Jesus cleanses the Temple**

The Temple area was the place where Gentiles could gather to worship God. Traders made it a noisy and smelly place where it would be difficult to worship thus interfering with God's provision of a place for Gentiles to worship. **Read Isaiah 56: 6 – 7.**

**Thought** how do we appear to those around us? Do we hinder, in anyway, those who come to worship God who do not normally belong to our Fellowship?

## **Tuesday read Matthew 21: 23 – 27 The Authority of Jesus**

### **Questioned**

The leaders questioned Jesus about His authority but when He asked them about the source of John's baptism did it come from "heaven or men" they found themselves in an awkward position

### **Read Mark 14: 3 – 9 Jesus anointed at Bethany**

Anointing at a feast was a usual custom showing deep devotion to the guest. Mary shows her deep devotion to Jesus in this act.

**Thought** when we speak do we speak from our own experience or do we seek God's guidance and direction?

How do we show our deep devotion to Jesus?

## **Wednesday read Luke 22: 3 – 6 The Plot against Jesus**

"Satan entered Judas" this expression is used twice in the Gospels on two separate occasions 1) before Judas went to the Chief Priests offering to betray Jesus and 2) during the Last Supper in **John 13:27**

The Gospel writers are depicting Satan's control over Judas who had never completely committed to Jesus.

**Thought** how do we betray Jesus? Are we completely committed to Him?

## **Thursday read Matthew 26: 17 – 29 The Last Supper**

Jesus knew who would betray Him. Dipping your hand into the bowl on the table was a symbol of friendship, saying I am your friend and I will not harm you. This makes Judas' betrayal all the more despicable.

**Thought** imagine yourself at the Last Supper, with all its symbolism and think about how you would feel having heard Jesus say "one of you will betray me?" They had all dipped their hands into the bowl.

### **Read John 14: 1 – 4 Jesus comforts the disciples**

Jesus comforts His disciples telling them not to worry but to trust Him. He will come back and take them to be with Him. They had just been told the most disturbing news how could they not be troubled? Jesus says "Trust in God and trust also in me". This trust banishes fear.

**Thought** in today's circumstances can we still trust God? Are we waiting for Him to come back and take us to be where He is?

### **Read Mark 14: 32 – 42 Gethsemane**

The Garden of Gethsemane was a favourite place for Jesus to go to. He prays to His Father that if possible the "cup" be removed from Him. The cup symbolized God's wrath in Old Testament times and it was this that Jesus dreaded as He would be cut off from His Father by the sin He was taking on, not death as such. Jesus was prepared to do this for all mankind so that we could be reconciled to God.

**Thought** this Easter can we keep watch and pray for the people we know to find forgiveness and reconciliation to God as we think again about the cost of our Salvation.

### **Prayer.**

Heavenly Father as we read again the Gospel Story of this most tremendous week in the history of Your world we are humbled by the enormous sacrifice, made on our behalf, by Jesus. We thank you for our reconciliation, salvation and the promise of a place with You in eternity because of this sacrifice. Bless us we pray in the powerful Name of Jesus. AMEN.