

Services on Palm Sunday – Maundy Thursday – Good Friday

As Christians around the world look forward to Easter celebrations, today we celebrate Palm Sunday which marks the commencement of Holy Week. At the beginning of our **10am Palm Sunday Eucharist at St Chad's**, we will gather outside the church building and enter the worship space joyfully singing our *hosannas*. Regarding the Scripture reading(s) for the day, we will all participate in a *responsive reading* of **Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29**, before also participating in a *narrated reading* based on **Luke 19:28-40**, which is an account of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem during his final days.

On Thursday evening you are invited to come and participate in our **7pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist and Foot-washing Ceremony at St Chad's**. The Scriptures for this service include: (1) **Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14**, a passage describing the institution of the Feast of Passover as a memorial of the Lord's deliverance of the people from Egypt; (2) **1 Corinthians 11:23-29**, a passage in which Paul reminds the Christians of Corinth of the ancient tradition he had received concerning the institution of the Eucharist, the celebration of which is to be a living sermon; and (3) **John 13:1-17, 31b-35**, a passage about Jesus' last supper in which he washes the feet of his disciples to demonstrate that the essence of his relationship with his father is love, and that the disciples are now to be the embodiment of that love. That's why he gave his disciples a *new commandment* (John 13:34).

Then on Friday, you are encouraged to attend our **10am Good Friday Tenebrae Service at St Chad's**, which will be followed by morning tea in the lounge. In this Service we will remember the arrest, trial, torture, crucifixion, and death of our Lord and Saviour Jesus, the Anointed One. This sombre Service called *Tenebrae*, means *darkness* or *shadows*. The purpose of *Tenebrae* is to read a selection of Scriptures from **Matthew 26, Mark 15:12-20, and Luke 23:33-46** to recreate the betrayal, abandonment, and pain of the events around about the time of Jesus' crucifixion. The story is left unfinished because it is not complete until Easter Day.