

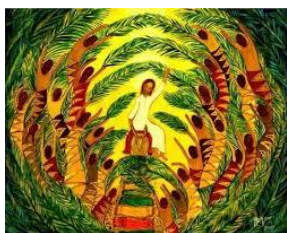
FAMILY PRAYER

At Home

All Saints
Catholic Academy Trust



Thursday 26th March 2026



As we prepare for school to finish for the Easter Holiday on Friday, we gather together in prayer to give thanks for all the successes of the Spring Term. We thank God for all of the joy, happiness and achievement in our schools. In whatever it is that we do, we know that He is with us in all things.

Holy Week

This coming week, the week before Easter, is called Holy Week. It is a time when we remember the story of Jesus's last days with his friends before his death on Good Friday.

Holy Week starts with the celebration of Palm Sunday. We will celebrate this in Mass this Sunday. Palm Sunday recalls the events of Jesus, riding into the holy city of Jerusalem – a very special and important place for the Jewish people in Jesus's time and today also. It is an important place for us as Catholics too, because of what happened there during the events of Holy Week. Jesus rode into Jerusalem sitting on a donkey. Crowds of people came to see him – the Gospels tell us that they lined the streets waiting to see him.

Read together this passage from St Matthew's Gospel, which we will hear in Mass on Sunday, that tells us how the crowds reacted to seeing Jesus:

'Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!' And when he entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying, 'Who is this?' And the crowds said, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth of Galilee.'



Everyone was so excited to see Jesus. They called him by names and titles that showed how special he was and they lay their clothes down on the dirty streets to make a path for Jesus and the donkey.

In the Second reading in Mass on Sunday, we will hear the following passage from a special letter that St Paul wrote to a people known as the Philippians:

'But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.'

St Paul is talking about exactly the same sort of way that the crowds in Jerusalem welcomed Jesus – celebrating and praising him and calling him special names that showed how special he was.

In our prayer this week, I would like you to think about some of the special names that you might use for Jesus. I will start you off with a few that you may use at school and at church:

**Jesus
Christ
Son of God**



Think of any other special names that you can think of, that tell us what sort of person Jesus was. You might even be able to think of some of your own ideas.

You might like to choose a couple of these names and take your time to write them beautifully on a piece of paper (in your best handwriting!). How can you decorate them to show how special these names for Jesus are?

We will finish our time of prayer by say a few short prayers together as a family, that mark this important time in the church and school year.

- For our Diocese. That Archbishop Richard is continuing to find a great welcome from the people of the Diocese as he begins his new ministry. Lord hear us...
- For our schools, our teachers, support staff and friends. That everyone will have a happy, joyful and safe Easter holiday. Lord hear us...
- For peace in the world. That all people will try hard to be peace makers and love one another as you have asked us to. Lord hear us....
- For ourselves, that we can enjoy our time together as family this Easter- that our bonds of family love can be strengthened. Lord hear us....

Prepared by Stephen Wheatley
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