
Freedom and Choice



Palm Sunday



A family in one of the slum areas of Kolkata.

READING - LUKE 19:28-40

After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Lord needs it.'"

Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

They replied, "The Lord needs it."

They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”

“I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

REFLECT

Who do we choose to follow? When we read the story of Jesus’s triumphant entry into Jerusalem it can be tempting to judge the crowd harshly. Although this story is often seen as triumphant Jesus came in humility, riding a humble beast of burden rather than the kingly horse as might have been expected from a powerful leader. Nonetheless the crowd were thrilled thinking he was to overthrow the Romans who oppressed them. As it turned out their adulation didn’t last long and within a day it turned very quickly to accusation with the crowd baying for Jesus’ blood. They chose in the end to reject him.

Jesus comes to us in humility today posing the same question, asking who do we think he is? What sort of God do we want and do we see it in him? Will we follow him? Are we willing to choose to see the world through his eyes? A world in which the last shall be first and the those on the margins of society brought into his kingdom.

‘Serve Jesus in the distressing disguise of the poorest of the poor.’

Mother Theresa of Kolkata

CRS is making the choice to see those communities and individuals usually overlooked by society considering them of less value due to their status, health, education or powerlessness. It is choosing to serve them and restore their dignity, seeing God in everyone and therefore of infinite worth.

RESPOND

Pray for the staff and trustees of CRS asking God to give them clear vision of who to serve in Kolkata and how to do it. Pray that in choosing to serve the poor and the least they will receive strength, sufficient funding and emotional resilience to do this work.

'Jesus comes to you and me and very often we pass him by'

Mother Theresa of Kolkata

PRAYER

Lord of life, we pray for fullness of life.

For ourselves.

For others.

For our world.

We resolve to live life in all its fullness.

We seek to enable others to live life in all its fullness too. Amen.

For further information about the work of CRS go to: [https://
www.cathedralreliefservice.net](https://www.cathedralreliefservice.net)

For further information about Friends of CRS UK go to: [https://
www.cathedralreliefservice.net/supporters/ukfriends/](https://www.cathedralreliefservice.net/supporters/ukfriends/)