



St Botolph's Church, Colchester

28th March 2021

Palm Sunday

Dear Friends,

Twelve months from the start of an assortment of lockdowns and restrictions, we can reflect on what, for all of us, must rank as probably the strangest year of our lives. We still do not really know if we will be hit, yet again, by a new strain or third wave. Yet whilst we have missed meeting for worship and fellowship, there has been a determined effort to keep in touch with each other, ensuring that we will not be strangers once we do get together again.

In Bishop Peter Hill's reflection this week he makes the point that, 'Holy Week is a week when we dare to hope, as we await Easter Day. While through the cross of Jesus we see our own mortality, in his resurrection we see the amazing gift of life and possibility that lies ahead. We look to the future with an enhanced challenge to care for one another and our world, and a hope that comes from the awesome mystery of the gift of life and love.'

We have heard that the funeral of Pauline T will be on Thursday 22nd of April at 2.45 pm. It will be available as an online service and as soon as we have the link, we will let everyone know.

We will be blessing the palm crosses at this Sunday's service, and should you be shielding and not able to be present and would like one, then please get in touch with David.

Whilst we do not have services planned during the early part of Holy Week, you may be able to link with online worship from Christchurch or indeed other broadcast services. We have however planned '**The Message of Good Friday**' worship at 10.30 am during which by readings and music we will be led through the Good Friday message.

Castle Methodist Church online worship is at <https://www.youtube.com/Colchestermethodists>

Do remember that we can log into the on-line worship at Christchurch. A range of options are available, please have a look at [Colchester Christ Church](#)

Collect for Palm Sunday

: Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross:
grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

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