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| **Starting our week with prayer**  |

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| On Mondays, we share a reflection written by a member of our prayer community. This reflection for Monday of Holy Week comes from Libby Greenhalgh, Ordinand & ALM chaplain, Horwich and Rivington Team. |

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| **Monday 25th March 2024**  |

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| “Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple courts. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late he went out to Bethany with the Twelve” Mark 11:11. |

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| Both chapter & verse are number 11, which is very similar to a pause sign. A gap between two lines.Jesus takes a pause, a momentary breath in the events of Holy Week. He has just been proclaimed King, “Hosanna!” yet is about to undertake the journey to the cross.The speed of events can at times seem to hurtle by; but it needs to be punctuated by placing a deliberate space in between each. To stop and notice things afresh. A welcome invitation of time out with Jesus, to pray and be in his presence just as his disciples did.How will you intentionally make time for a prayerful pause this Holy Week?  |

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| **Palm Sunday reflection**  |

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| Our reflection for Palm Sunday comes from Deborah Smith, Director of Education, Manchester Diocese.  |

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| ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ Matthew 22:37.We read in Matthew 21:1-11 the events of Palm Sunday. We see the crowd in Jerusalem reacting to Jesus as they would for a king. They wave palm leaves, cheer as they see him and lay down their cloaks before him. It is a joy-filled occasion. I’m left wondering how I would have reacted. Would I too have joined with the crowd and worshipped him so publicly? Do I do this now? Jesus deserves so much more than the waving of branches and laying down of cloaks. He wants to be with us in every aspect of our lives, for us to worship him with our whole being.What is the evidence of your love for the ‘Lord your God’ in your life?  |

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