

CHAPEL MESSAGES FOR THE WEEK ENDING 30th MARCH 2018

MONDAY, 26th MARCH 2018

Good Morning All

Welcome to Week 9 and HOLY WEEK!

Tis a beautiful sunny day here at Wesley. God is good!

Our theme for this week is HOLY WEEK.

The Bible reading was from Mark 11:1-11 on pages 1066 and 1243 in the Wesley Bibles.

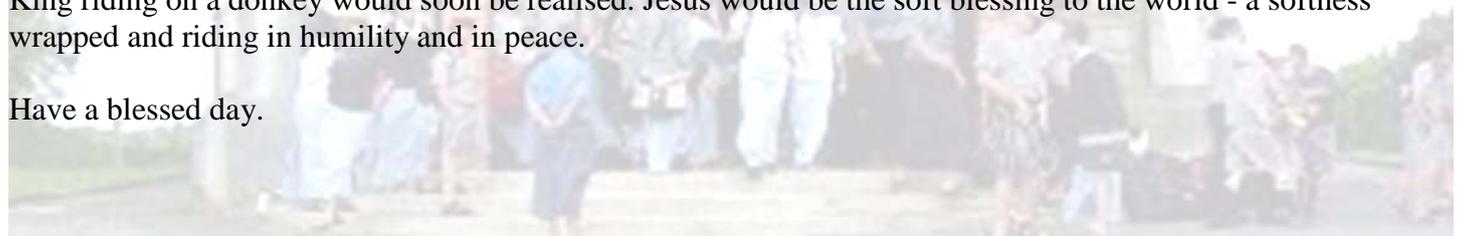
The naming of the Jonah Lomu Drive and the blessing which happened last Wednesday, the story has many connections to the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. A former Old Boy - Jonah's life is one of humble beginnings to becoming a world rugby icon in a short space of time. He was known for his kindness and compassion, for being humble and very giving. Jonah's wife Nadene commented that Jonah would have been very embarrassed at all the fuss. The blessing of Jonah Lomu Drive was referred to as a 'soft' blessing meaning that it was supposed to be very low key. Just a small number of people involved, nothing flash or huge because there would be a bigger acknowledgement later on in the year.

The blessing then wouldn't take very long, a small affair and no media. As the time grew closer though to the naming and blessing a momentum began to build and things began to grow beyond our control. What was supposed to be a 'soft' blessing grew into something much more. The media were on hand, people began to find out about it ... old students... Jonah's rugby friends ... Sir Michael Jones and former Deputy Principal Chris Grinter. It was shifting very quickly from a 'soft' blessing to something so much more and it became something much more having caught the media spotlight.

As Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday he wasn't to know the momentum that had built up after the miracle raising of Lazarus.

Everyone had heard about it and so the crowds that turned up following Jesus into Jerusalem that day were unexpected. No one, let alone Jesus could control their shouting and singing, their waving palm branches and laying clothes on the ground. Jesus' entry was no 'soft' blessing but the irony and paradox in the arrival of a King riding on a donkey would soon be realised. Jesus would be the soft blessing to the world - a softness wrapped and riding in humility and in peace.

Have a blessed day.



TUESDAY, 27th MARCH 2018

Good Morning All

Another beautiful sunny day here at Wesley. God is good!

HOLY WEEK ...

The Bible reading was from Mark 14:43-50 on pages 1071 and 1251 in the Wesley Bibles.

This Holy Week causes us to witness a sequence of happenings which led Jesus to the Cross and his resurrection. We will see Jesus experience the full gamut of human emotion as he is abandoned, denied, betrayed and crucified. The reading this morning tells the story of Jesus' arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane and of Jesus' betrayal by Judas one of his trusted disciples. Why would someone who has hung out with Jesus, part of the tight Twelve for the whole of Jesus' ministry then decide to dob Jesus in to the Roman authorities? However we feel about Judas' betrayal of Jesus, the choice we are presented with and continue to make must be in the light of The Risen Lord Jesus Christ, the Resurrected One which speaks to forgiveness and hope and eternal life.

This morning in chapel we watched a Youtube clip entitled 'The Passion Song' which tells the story of Holy Week In song and in picture and well worth watching. The clip speaks to the heart of Holy Week also known as Passion Week.

The foregoing events of Passion Week are at the centre of a story of redemption.

At the core of the observance of Passion Week is narrative or story, and story is at the core of our identities.

We are a story-telling people not because we love a good yarn, or because we enjoy being entertained, but rather because we think narratively. The Bible calls us to believe the passion narrative for salvation and daily re-enact the narrative by loving others with the same sacrificial, agape love Christ displayed on the Cross. Let the passion narrative be the story of our life!

Have a blessed day.

WEDNESDAY, 28th MARCH 2018

Good Morning All

It was a beautiful sunrise on the farm this morning. Thanks be to God.

HOLY WEEK ...

For chapel the School watched a Youtube clip this morning by the Skit Guys entitled 'Good Friday'

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rXOq_Kxp8Ts

The clip provides poignant insight from the perspective of six people who knowing or unknowingly were participants in the Good Friday story. People like - Thomas, John, Peter, Judas, Barabbas and the Centurion - from the Last Supper to the Cross.

The story of Good Friday is a difficult one if the story were to find its ending on the Cross but the truth of Holy Week is that the story ends not with Jesus' death, but his resurrection come Easter Sunday. This is the positive note a story of hope.

The final comment from the clip is the very truth-filled statement 'Surely this is the Son of God!'

The School sang 'Were you there?' which asks us to consider where we stand in the whole of the Easter Story.

Have a blessed day.

THURSDAY, 29th MARCH 2018

Good Morning All

It's overcast today but very warm. We give thanks for each new day.

EASTER BLESSINGS to all our Wesley Family here at home and abroad from the current Wesley Family.

Our prayer is that we all have a blessed Easter with family and friends remembering we believe in a Risen Christ.

The School will gather today at 2.20pm for our Easter Service of celebration before we all depart. If you are in and around Pukekohe come and join us.

HOLY WEEK ...

Today is Holy Thursday or Maundy Thursday.

The word 'maundy' is not commonly used or something you're likely to hear outside the context of Easter. 'maundy' comes from the Latin *mandatum* verb *mandare*, which is translated as 'commandment.' In the context of Holy Week it refers to the commandment Jesus gave to his disciples while washing their feet, Specifically, the commandment in [John 13:34-35](#): "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

As a reminder of this commandment, some churches hold foot washing ceremonies on the Thursday of Holy Week.

If you've never been a part of a foot washing ceremony, it's incredibly humbling and one can imagine how difficult it would have been for the disciples to allow Jesus to humble himself in this way.

Have a blessed day and Easter weekend.

FRIDAY, 30th MARCH 2018

There was no Chapel message today.

