



PALM SUNDAY

Continuing the Conversation

After participating in Mass online, spend some time sharing.

Palm Sunday is different from every other Sunday of the year in that it has two readings from the Gospels: the first reading tells us about the joyful time when the people welcomed Jesus by waving palm branches, and the second reading tells us the long sad story about how Jesus suffered and died. Take some time to talk about what these two readings mean to each of you. Here are some thoughts and questions that can get the conversation started.

- **Let's imagine that the first Gospel story is happening now and we have all heard that the prophet named Jesus is coming to our town.** Would a large crowd of people gather to greet him? Would our family go out to join the crowd? Jesus probably wouldn't ride on a donkey. How would he ride? We probably wouldn't wave palm branches. How would we show him and everyone else that we were happy that he was coming to our town?
- **Cheering for Jesus is exciting and fun, but following Jesus can be difficult.** What kinds of difficult things does Jesus ask his followers to do? (Help the children to name things like: feed the poor, forgive your enemies, share your things, tell the truth, obey your parents, go to Mass on Sunday, etc.)
- In the first story some people were really praising Jesus and some were just following the crowd. In the second story some people really meant "Crucify him" and some were just following the crowd. As children grow up they gradually learn when it is OK just to do what "everyone else" is doing, and when to make their own choices about what they will do or not do. **If we really want to be followers of Jesus, what should we do when "everyone else" is making fun of an unpopular kid, sassing the teacher, passing on gossip, sending mean or text messages, hoarding toilet paper?**