

# **Wild @ St Michael's Easter Tale**

**Jesus journey to the cross with the Animals**



***An All-Age Resource***

***Revd Louise Collins – Holy Week 2020***

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## Chapter One – Palm Sunday

### The Donkey who carried Jesus on her back

**“With me is my foal, nearly two years old now. She has never carried anyone on her back before, but now she is ready to do it. I wonder if Jesus will ask her?”**

**We are riding up to Jerusalem. All the people have joined us now, singing and dancing in a circle around me and my foal. Jesus is riding on my back. Young people and old, girls and boys, all waving palm branches and shouting out ‘Hosanna!’**



**People say that kings and army chiefs go into battle riding strong horses and even camels and elephants. But Jesus is God’s man of peace, maybe that’s why he chose me and my foal. We’ve reached the city, now it’s her turn. Jesus is beckoning to her.**

**Later this evening, we all went along with Jesus and his disciples, out to the village called Bethany and we spent the night there. All is well.”**

***‘Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey’ Matthew 21:5***

**CRAFT IDEA: Cut out a card donkey and use clothes pegs for legs**

**REFLECTION: We always think of the Lord carrying us through tough times. Here, the donkey humbly carries Jesus on her back. How is it, at this time, that we are sharing Jesus’ burden?**

**PRAYER: Lord, you said, ‘Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; my yoke is easy, my burden is light.’ Help me at this time to be willing to carry your burden, even as I lay my own burden down at your feet. Amen.**



**BLESSING: Christ crucified draw you to himself, to find in him a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.**

## Chapter Two – Holy Monday

### The first Dove who Jesus set free

**“It happened this afternoon. There were lots of other doves and sheep and cattle with me. We were all in the Temple. We were all locked in cages or tied up. Jesus came and set us free. He chased away the people trying to sell us. Jesus told them that God’s House is not supposed to be for caged animals, but for prayer.**

**Now I am flying free, wherever I want.**



**This evening, as the sun went down, I flew with Jesus and his disciples as they were walking out across the valley. It is a beautiful evening. All is well.”**

*‘In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle.’ John 2:14-15*

**CRAFT IDEA: Make a paper dove and hang up somewhere in your room**

**REFLECTION: In what ways are we being set free? How are we free, at this time, to serve others? How, even though constrained from our normal patterns of worship, are we free to express worship to God today?**

**PRAYER: Lord, help me to make the most of each day as it comes and trust all things into your hands. Help me to see where I may use my limited freedom to serve others and to please you. Amen.**

**COLLECT: Holy God, our lives are laid open before you: rescue us from the chaos of sin and through the death of your Son bring us healing and make us whole in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



## Chapter Three – Holy Tuesday

### The Mother Hen who gave Jesus his parable

**“Jesus loves all God’s people like I love my chicks. He would do anything for them, even give his life. I am the same. My chicks mean everything to me. They are all with me now, safe and sound. Earlier a fox came by, but I protected my chicks. God looks after us all, even the sparrows.**

**Sometimes bad things happen, but I will be ready. I will always do my best for my chicks.**



**This evening, as Jesus and his disciples were out walking in the fields, they passed by our nest. Jesus raised a smile and waved his hand. I know for sure he’s still thinking about us. God is looking after us too. All is well.”**

*‘How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings’ Matthew 23:37*

**CRAFT IDEA: Hand-print hens and chicks! If you haven’t got any paint, draw round your hand with a felt pen.**

**REFLECTION: In what ways, right now, am I experiencing the protection of God? How is the Lord sheltering me? Psalm 91 says ‘He will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence; he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge’**

**PRAYER: Lord, I ask for your protection, I cry out to you and take refuge in you. Protect me and shield me always in your care. Amen.**

**COLLECT: God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful: watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



## Chapter Four – Holy Wednesday

### The Sheep and Goats in Jesus' famous story

**“Heh, would you know it!  
In some countries, they say  
we sheep and goats are  
difficult to tell apart, that  
we all look alike. But a  
Good Shepherd has no  
problem with that. Jesus  
says, it’s all about how we  
treat other people. Treat  
others as you want them to  
treat you. Look after each  
other, especially people  
who are lonely or hungry or  
weak or sick. Always do your best and leave the rest to God.**



**Jesus’ story made some people angry because they thought he was getting at them. They wanted to arrest him.**

**This evening, as Jesus and his disciples were walking back to the village, he waved to us and gave us all a friendly wink of the eye. For now at least, all is well.”**

*‘All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats’ Matthew 25:32*

**CRAFT IDEA: Cheerio sheep (or use cotton wool or pasta, if you have any!)**

**REFLECTION: External appearances are not always what they seem. The Lord said to King David, ‘People look at on the outside, but God looks on the heart’. How can my actions today best reflect the intentions of my heart?**

**PRAYER: Lord, give me an undivided heart that I may praise your name. Amen.**



**COLLECT: Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. Amen.**

## Chapter Five – Maundy Thursday

### The Fox of whom Jesus is not afraid

**“I lurk in the shadows, I hunt at night. I scatter the flock, I wait for them to run.**

**But I know Jesus is not afraid of me. He saw my shadow this evening and he just carried on walking. He didn't give me a second look. He knows what he's doing, he knows where he's going, he's made his mind up. For now there's nothing I can do, but soon my time will come.**



**Later this evening Jesus and his disciples had a Passover meal together. He washed their feet and they listened to him talk late into the night about life and death and God's love.**

**Then when it was very dark, they went into a garden called Gethsemane. Jesus prayed to God all night long, like he'd never prayed before. Something bad is going to happen to Jesus soon.”**

***'Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work' Luke 13:32***

#### **CRAFT IDEA: A simple fox mask**

**REFLECTION: Draw strength from the times when you have overcome obstacles and trials in the past. Cast fear aside. Let nothing cloud your vision. Focus on the perfect love of God that casts out fear.**

**PRAYER: Lord, give me the courage this day to walk with Jesus and to love the truth. Amen.**



**COLLECT: God our Father, your Son Jesus Christ was obedient to the end and drank the cup prepared for him: may we who share his table watch with him through the night of suffering and be faithful. Amen.**

## Chapter Six – Good Friday

### The Cockerel Jesus chose to warn Peter

**“Peter is one of Jesus’ disciples. He is one of their main leaders. But Jesus said that fear would get the better of him and he would run away. When a small girl asked Peter if he was a friend of Jesus he denied it and said ‘no’, which wasn’t true.**

**Jesus was arrested and they took him away and questioned him for hours. They beat him up and made him wear a false crown.**



**I was given a special job to do. I crowed loudly to remind Peter to be true to himself and true to his God. Now people all over the world can get the same message every time they hear a cock crow. Later Peter was sorry, don’t worry he will be alright.**

**Later, some soldiers took Jesus and nailed him onto a wooden cross and three hours later he died. They buried his body in a stone cave in the hillside.**

**All the animals and all the birds fell silent.”**

*‘At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: “Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly’ Matthew 26:75*

#### **CRAFT IDEA: Paper plate cockerel**

**REFLECTION: Betrayal and denial. The disciples are scattered. The cock crows, in the shadow of the cross. The Lamb of God sheds his blood, his body is broken. He cries out to God, ‘Into your hands, I commit my spirit’.**

**PRAYER: Lord, restore my soul, for your name’s sake. Amen.**

**COLLECT: Eternal God, in the cross of Jesus we see the cost of sin and the depth of your love: in humble hope and fear may we place at his feet all that we have and all that we are, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



## Chapter Seven – Holy Saturday

### The Fossil in the stone cave where Jesus' body was buried

**“Some people call me ‘trilobite’. I am found in limestone rock, which is the type of rock in which Jesus grave was dug. I was around millions and millions of years ago, when the earth (as you call it) was covered with seas. Jesus was around even before me. He made me and all the animals that came after me.**



**It is my greatest honour that Jesus was laid to rest in my cave. I watch over his body. I’ve waited a long time. I am a silent witness.**

**Even now, I believe that Jesus can make me and all God’s creatures come back to life again and one day he will do it. Do you believe him? Watch this space. All will be well.”**

*‘Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away’ Matthew 27:59*

**CRAFT IDEA: Get some Plasticine, clay or salt dough and press in a leaf or a shell or make your own fossil marks**



**REFLECTION: Before dawn, the women prepare spices to anoint his body. The Lamb of God lies slain. The Lion of Judah is silent. Ancient time breathes. All creation groans. The earth sighs. Stillness and silence.**

**PRAYER: ‘Out of the deep, O Lord, have I cried onto Thee’; O Lord, hear my prayer and let my sighing come unto you. Amen.**

**COLLECT: In the depths of our isolation we cry to you, Lord God: give light to our darkness and bring us out of the prison of our despair; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



## Chapter Eight – Easter Day

**“HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE!”**



**Today is Easter day, the greatest day! Jesus is alive again and all is well.**

**We the animals and birds have walked with him and flown with him. We have listened to him and been there for him. We have been his teachers and he has set us free.**

**We have told you our tale. Now, what is your story?**

**Go in peace and tell everyone about Jesus journey with the animals.  
Amen.**

***'And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation' Mark 16:15***