



Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday celebrates the arrival of Jesus in Jerusalem for the Jewish festival of Passover.





The Saviour Arrives

Many people in Jerusalem thought that Jesus was the Saviour. They took branches of olive leaves and went out to meet him, shouting, "Praise God! God bless him who comes in the name of the Lord! God bless the King of Israel."





Jesus arrived in Jerusalem on a donkey to show he came in peace. Great crowds of people lined the streets. The people were very excited. They spread branches on the road - and even laid down their clothes. They shouted 'Hosanna!' which means 'save us now'.

Palm Sunday Processions

Today, in hot countries, Palm Sunday processions often take place out in the streets. Sometimes a live donkey is used in the procession with a statue of Jesus on it. If you look at the hair on a donkey's back, you will see that it forms the shape of a cross.



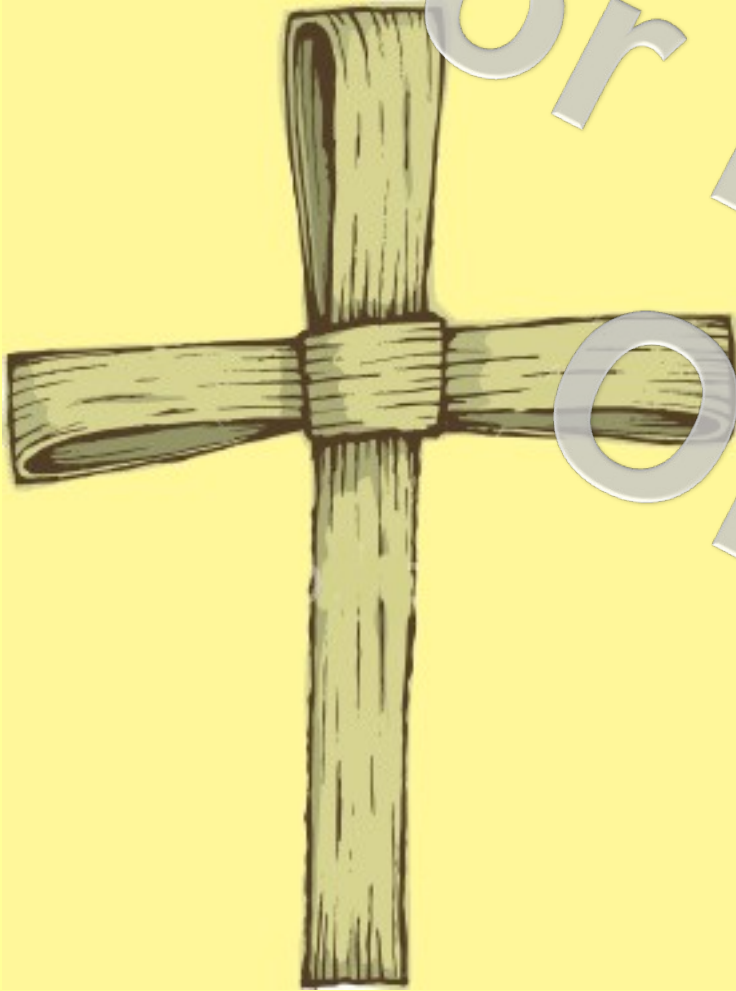


Happy and Sad



Palm Sunday is both a happy and sad occasion. Christians are happy because they are singing Jesus' praises. But they are also sad because they know that Jesus died on a cross less than a week after he had entered Jerusalem.

Palm Crosses



Christians are given little palm crosses on Palm Sunday, made from single palm leaves. The palm crosses that are left over are kept for almost a year. Then they are burnt up and their ashes are used on Ash Wednesday to put on people's foreheads on the first day of lent.