



St Andrew's Parish Church Guernsey
Sunday, 10 April 2022 – Palm Sunday
Readings: Philippians 2:5-11 & St Luke 19: 28-40
Given by Rev Juliette E C Robilliard

In the midst of a celebration there will always be the kill-joys ...

What struck me about this Gospel was the contrast between the joyous behaviour of the ordinary people greeting Jesus, as he rode into Jerusalem and the remonstrations of the Pharisees ordering him to silence the crowd. Why this contrast? Those ordinary people included the poor, the dispossessed and the despised, all effectively the voiceless majority. Whereas the Pharisees were the comfortable elite, who spoke for the people, whether the people wanted them to or not!

Selfless servant v celebrity status

The ordinary people were so grateful that Jesus had noticed them in his ministry, giving them a voice, raising them up, to new life and purpose through faith. The Pharisees, by contrast, saw that Jesus had taken the limelight off them. Worse, if all people felt that they could worship God, as Jesus had espoused without any partiality and in total equality, then they perceived their status as Pharisees would become redundant. Jesus knew what was on their minds, as he journeyed towards his sacrifice 'emptying himself', as St Paul described it to the Philippians. However, through his death his name has the power to unite all people, if they acknowledge him as Lord.

How much is salvation worth?

What is an appropriate response, so that we, as Paul put it, '... we might have the same mind as in Christ'? If we try to emulate his tender love towards all people, it will cost us monetarily, emotionally, physically and spiritually, however, such seems a small sacrifice for Christ who gave his all for us. May it be our prayer, that we renew our desire through faith and love, to unite with Christ walking beside him on the way of the cross, which is the path to glory and so share his risen life.

Amen.