

A thought for Monday in Holy Week

by Jill Haylock

Today is the first day of Holy Week when we begin a journey following Jesus to his death on the cross.

Yesterday we celebrated Palm Sunday and remembered Jesus riding into Jerusalem, where a large crowd of his disciples began to praise him in loud voices saying, “God bless the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” The chief priests and teachers of the law became angry on seeing people praising Jesus for his words and deeds, and they wanted to kill him.

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.”

The disciples would feel vulnerable and anxious about the future as they watched all of this happening. Jesus said to them “Many things will happen but do not be afraid”. The days ahead would be hard for Jesus to bear, but he had complete trust in God’s will and faithful love. In these days of vulnerability, loss and anxiety for many people today because of the effects



and restrictions of the coronavirus, we can look to Jesus' example and take his words of encouragement and trust into our own situations.

The words of the hymn
by John Henry Sammis
can be our prayer for today:

When we walk with the Lord
in the light of his word,
What a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his goodwill,
he abides with us still,
and with all who will trust and obey.

