

QUARANTINE REFLECTION 5 - Palm Sunday

Make Way, Make Way.....

I wonder how many of you will sing the line 'For Christ The King In Splendour Arrives 'and how many of you 'Moana It's Time You Knew..'

The first is referring to Jesus and his triumphant entry into Jerusalem and the second an Island Princess (although she is not a princess she is the daughter of the chief) brought to us by Disney.

The hopes of many on the shoulders of both, the fictional Moana in brief (and I do this no justice) is the very strong willed daughter of the chief is chosen by the ocean to reunite the pounamu the heart stone with the Goddess TeFiti. Moana sets sail on this onerous task to save her village when her island home suffers a terrible blight and the ocean no longer gives up fish and the islanders are likely to then starve and die and so Moana goes to find Maui a Demigod who has the pounamu to help her return the heart and set the world to rights. They embark on this huge adventure risking life and limb with the hopes of the village on her shoulders to rectify the wrong that is happening to her world.

When Jesus rose into Jerusalem the Jewish people had huge expectations of him, that is why they waved palm branches and spread them before him, they welcomed him with hope and expectations that he would be the saviour of them. And he did indeed come to save them and us. But he didn't come in the way that they expected, he didn't come to overthrow the tyranny of the Roman occupiers and establish a new political system. He did come and come to make changes, but the changes were to hearts of people and to save them from their wrongdoings.

This wonderful triumphal entry for those of us who know the story is one of hope but one that is overshadowed by that which is yet to come the crucifixion of Jesus. But the hope shines bright with the joy of Easter Sunday.

Who do you think you would have been that day had you been present for that triumphant entry - a disciple, a palm waving hopeful fan or sceptical member of the throng? Would we have expected a mighty warrior come to save and have been disappointed the man on a donkey?

We are stepping into Holy Week with I believe more hope than any of us will have held in our hearts before. We approach Easter 2020 with the hope that this pandemic that has a grip on our world will be overcome, we hope that the scientists will produce a vaccine, we hope that all those in power will make the correct decisions, we hope that the Doctors and nurses will save our loved ones. We hope that this will all soon be over.

For this to be over we, each of us have to continue to play our part by following the instruction to stay in, to change our habits and our needs or rather our wants to be out in the sunshine or to visit friends and family.

I know that this is a scary time but I know in my heart that God loves us and we will get through this time of huge uncertainty and I invite you to travel through Holy Week with me with Hope in your Heart and Trust that we will over come this and will come together physically to sing our own Hosannas of praise and joy.

“There is nowhere you could go that I won’t be with you.” - Gramma Tala to Moana
(True also of Jesus, wherever you go he goes with you.)

