

Palm Cross:

There are several ways to make a palm cross. On the web there is video clip showing one way to make a palm cross. It is easy to follow.

The making of a palm cross also tells the story of salvation. I will briefly outline.

1. There is one piece of palm. Christians are monotheistic, they believe in one God.

2. You make the knot. It is a very deliberate act.

It reminds us that we must be deliberate in confessing our sin.

3. Push the palm piece across through the knot on the horizontal.

We are told in every worship that God forgives those who truly repent and we are forgiven because Jesus’ arms were outstretched on the cross.

3. The last movement is to pass the Palm through the knot vertically which finalises the cross. This action reminds us that Jesus died on the cross, but the open nature of the cross reminds us that Jesus rose from the dead, conquering for us, sin and death and opening the gate of everlasting life.

On Palm Sunday, worshippers generally receive a palm cross that has been made with love. At times people are not sure what to do with their palm cross. Take it home. Place it somewhere where you will see it. Reflect on the message of the cross.

On the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, worshippers are asked to bring their palm crosses back to Church to be burned and then made into ash for the imposition of ashes. This ash is then placed on our foreheads in the shape of a cross. Various exhortations are used at this time such as:

“Remember you are dust and dust you shall return”.

“Repent and believe the Good News”

Sometimes both sets of words are used when imposition takes place.

(Yes, I acknowledge that some people do not want to return their palm cross, but it does remind us of the cycle of the Church Year and of our own mortality.

**The Hymn - When I survey:**

This is a well known hymn.

I suggest you play it through twice. The first time, listening to it. Focus on the words of the last line:

***“Demands my soul, my my life my all”*** for two or three minutes. As Lent is coming to an end, it is an ideal time to reflect on how well we understand what the words ***“Demands my soul, my my life my all”*** really means***.***

The second time you play the hymn, sing it through as group.

**The Passion Accounts:**

I encourage you to read and reflect on a Passion Account each day during Holy Week. As you reflect, keep the passage before you and ask yourself: “What is our Lord teaching me?”

Matthew 26 & 27

Mark 14 & 15

Luke 22 & 23

John 18 &19