

**St Mary Magdalene's Anglican Church  
Moore Street, Adelaide**

**PALM SUNDAY 2020**

**The Passion Reading for Palm Sunday**

Apparently, the route taken by Jesus to his place of execution is now always busy, congested and noisy. It was the same in Jesus' time. The Romans liked to parade their condemned prisoners as warnings to others that they must behave well.

We need to imagine how Jesus felt as he carried his cross through these crowds. They were all against him, except his mother and a few of the wider family. Jesus was a rejected man. The religious leadership of his people, his own disciples and betrayed by one of his own, too – all these had rejected him. The people had largely followed them.

In Australia we are all too often like this. A handful of us know facts of a trial. The opinions of the rest of us are based on a dodgy local newspaper, whichever other media outlets we patronise, and our own prejudices. For example, it was easy to dislike George Pell intensely, from way back. So when he was accused of very serious wrongdoing against others we were easily convinced of his guilt and the media supported us vigorously. Supposing his appeal fails. Where will his detractors stand then? I suppose they will be pleased and hope the rest of his imprisonment is as unpleasant as possible. It is an ugly scenario of which we can all too easily be part.

We must remember that Jesus was an innocent man being lambasted. Yet only his mother and a few others stood beside him.

Interestingly, it was Pilate's wife, a gentile, who showed some understanding about Jesus' identity. Often it is Gentiles who understand. Jesus' people seem not to. This can remind us that sometimes it may be people outside the Church who understand while we fail.

God is at work through this story. In the story people make their own decisions but the outcome is God's. It is the same for each one of us in our lives. We can make good and bad decisions but the eventual outcomes are God's. It is always good to hope.

Fr Graeme Kaines  
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