

Melissa's Thought for the Month - March 2016

The way Easter falls this year each Sunday has its own significance which we do well to consider.

First we have Mother's Day. Nowadays it is mainly observed by buying mothers (and probably grandmothers too) a box of special chocolates and/or some other present as well as the ubiquitous cards.

Originally, of course, it was the day on which the girls who worked as domestic servants had their one day off in the year. This was in order to visit their families - hence the traditional name of Mothering Sunday.

The following week is Passion Sunday. This is most likely to have been the day on which Jesus set His face "steadfastly" to go to Jerusalem. Clearly He knew what awaited Him there. It was not a decision to be taken lightly. He was truly human and this was the day which presaged the agony and the cross.

Next we have Palm Sunday. The cheering crowd waving palm fronds in greeting must have seemed ironic to Him though the warmth of their appreciation would not have been lost on Him. The branches of "pussy willow" which we display in our Churches do not really recapture the scene. Why we call them "palm" I do not know. Perhaps we should ask Susie Dent to include in her "Origins of Words" which many enjoy on the BBC programme "Pointless".

Finally, the climax of the month is Easter Sunday. Again many people think mainly of Easter Eggs and fluffy yellow "chicks". What is forgotten is the symbolism.

An egg is not just a very useful part of our diet whether eaten separately or used in cooking and baking. It is first visible signs of new life coming into the bird world. On the surface of the yolk is an invisible speck which will develop into the new chicken when it has absorbed the excellent food stored for it in the yolk and the white of the egg.

In the same way a very small act - or even a thought or a prayer - can develop and eventually bring forth new and/or more abundant life to a human spirit. This can prove as attractive in the world as a newly hatched chicken.

A very Happy Easter to you all when "the time is fully come".

Melissa.

Time For a Cuppa

On Saturday the 19th of March, we will be holding a brunch in aid of Dementia UK'S Time For A Cuppa fundraiser in memory of Gerry Fagan. Usual menu of bacon, sausage, egg butties, soup, 'Toda/s Specials" and a cake stall. Please come along and support this very worthwhile cause while enjoying good food and good fellowship. **Tracey Lynwode and family.**