

# Troubadour

Volume 65, No.3

Spring 2023





In the 12th century Christ spoke to St Francis of Assisi from this cross:

*“Francis, go and rebuild my Church which you see is falling down.”*

Don't complain about the Church in the 21st century.

Hear Our Lord's call and do something about it!

*The Friars Minor have followed St Francis' example for the last 800 years.*

**Why not be one of them?**

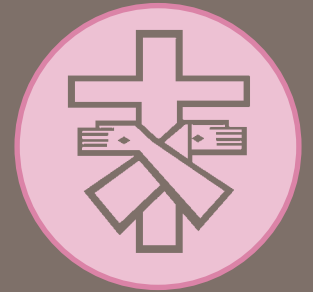
Contact Br Donal Walsh OFM,  
Franciscan Friary, 270 Ballater Street, Glasgow. G5 0YT  
Email: vocations@friar.org

# Troubadour

A MISSIONARY MAGAZINE

*at the service of*

- The Franciscan Missionaries working throughout the world but especially in disaster areas.
- The Franciscan Missionary Union.



Volume 65, No 3

Spring 2023

	Page
Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Alexandria, Egypt	4
St Kizito's, Malawi	7
The Palm Sunday Donkey (continued)	9
A Shaggy Dog Story	14
La Verna Retreat Centre, South Africa	16
Easter Facts	18
Palm Sunday colouring page	19

#### MISSION OFFICE:

FMU Director  
Franciscan Friary,  
270 Ballater Street,  
Glasgow.  
G5 0YT

#### EDITOR:

Br. Edmund Highton, ofm

Registered Charity  
No. 232177; SCO 39191

#### COVER PHOTOGRAPHS:

*Front cover:*  
Sudanese siblings.

*Back cover:*  
Joyful children of Malawi.

Published by St. Antony's Press for the  
Franciscan Missionary Union.

Produced by:  
Burns Publications Ltd.  
Caledonia Business Centre,  
Thornliebank Industrial Estate,  
Glasgow G46 8JT



# Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Financial Support for the Sudanese refugees and children in Alexandria, Egypt.

The Sacred heart Catholic Church is located in Alexandria and it is run by the Franciscan friars. There are more than 2000 Sudanese refugees under our care. Most of them are women and children.

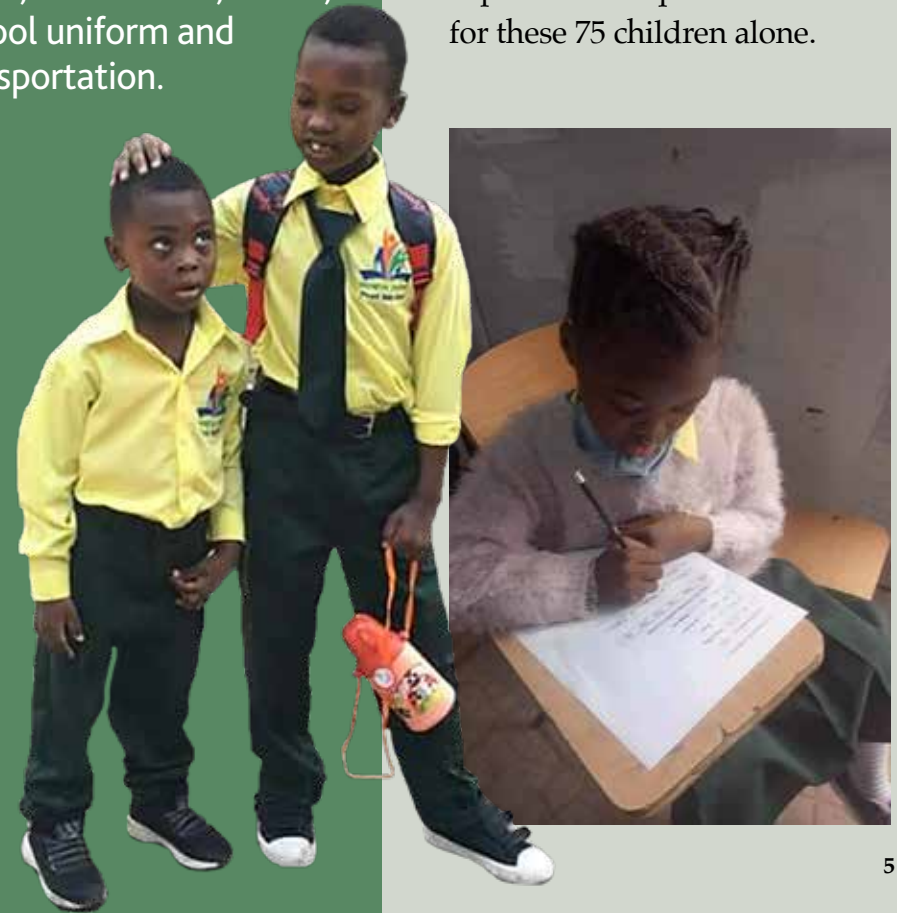


*Sudanese refugees.*

*Photo credit: Robert Stansfield/Department for International Development.*

As for repatriation, there is no hope because of the economic crisis in South Sudan and Sudan. Some of them are not yet registered under UNHCR and there are always new comers. As a result, they depend on the help that the Church gives such as health care, house rent, electricity bills, food items, School Fees, books, School uniform and transportation.

Since our resources are not sufficient due to the current economic situation, we find it difficult to answer to all their needs. There are more than 300 children in the different Schools in Alexandria (Government Schools and Community Schools), but the beneficiaries of this project are only 75 children. You will see from the table on the next page the required expenditure required to cater for these 75 children alone.



Item	Number of beneficiaries	Individual ratio	Total cost
1 School fees	75 children	£120 x 75 =	£9,000.00
2 Books	75 children	£40 x 75 =	£3,000.00
3 Uniform	75 children	£37.3 x 75 =	£2,800.00
4 Alimentation	75 children	£46.6 x 75 =	£3,500.00
5 Health care	75 children	£53.3 x 75 =	£4,000.00
6 transportation	75 children	£26.6 x 75 =	£2,000.00
<b>Total -</b>			<b>£24,300.00</b>

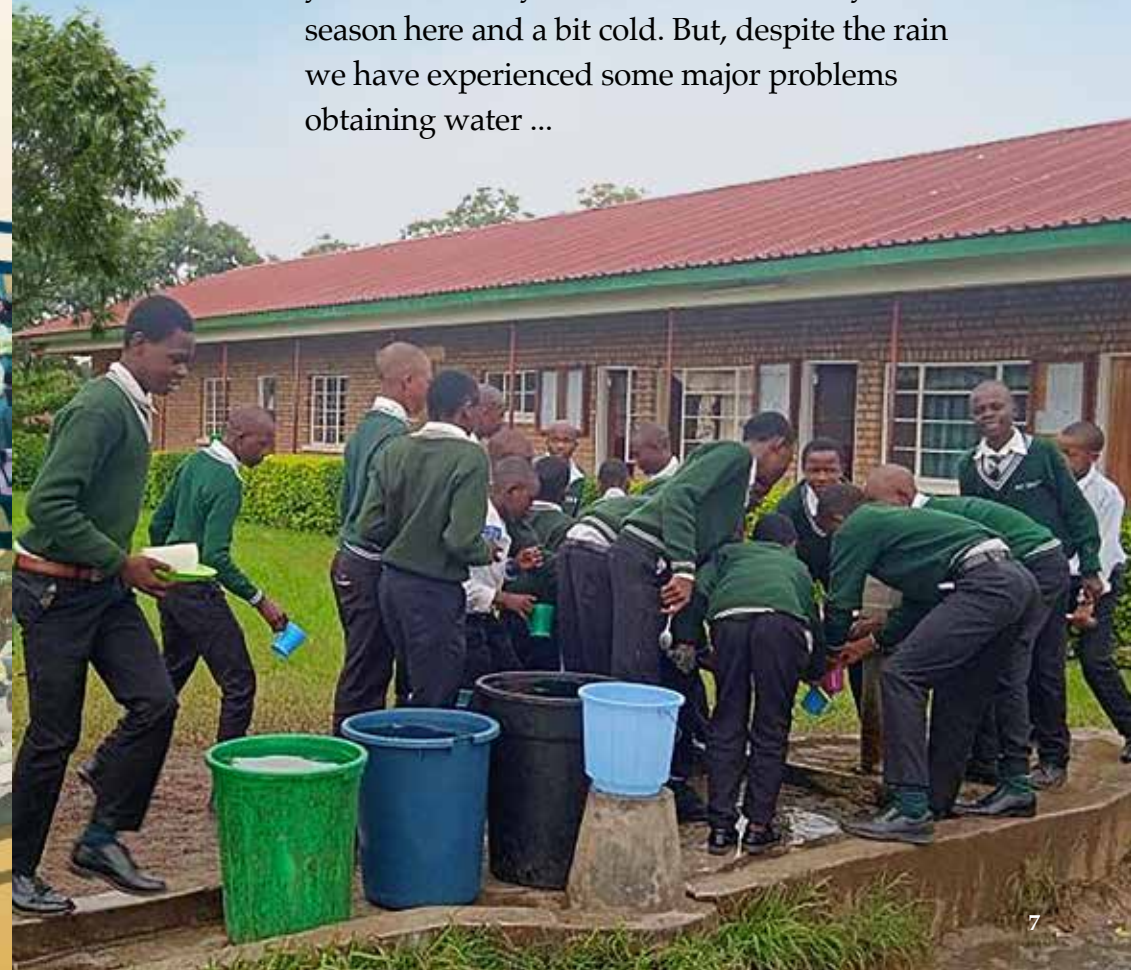
Amount in pound sterling is £24,300.00 (exchange rate of 37.18 Egyptian pound) = 903.474 LE

Thank you very much for the good services you are doing for the poor. God Almighty will always reward you.

Fr. Hillary Lohia Augustino Naluka OFM  
 Chaplain of the Sudanese Refugees,  
 Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Alexandria.

# St Kizito's, Malawi Generator Issues

Dear friends of St Kizito's, I hope this time of the year finds you doing well, together with all your community members. It is the rainy season here and a bit cold. But, despite the rain we have experienced some major problems obtaining water ...



We are in the second term of the academic year and our seminarians are doing well. But two weeks ago we experienced a fire accident although thankfully nobody got harmed. Our electricity transformer caught fire and it got completely burnt beyond repair. It will take time for the company to put another transformer in place. We are therefore currently out of our main power supply. We have no electricity.

We are under pressure because we have a water shortage. We are using a manual borehole which does not respond to the needs of the bigger community of students. We have problems with washrooms and shower rooms as they can only be used with running water.

We wish to quickly resort to solar panels just to pump water. Unfortunately we are financially challenged. I wanted to ask for your favour, if resources are available, to help us buy the solar panels and the solar water pump. We have a little local contribution and we need a top up to materialise the project.

I pray that we come out of this problem as quickly as possible. The pictures attached show some students hurrying to clean their plates after their meal using our sadly inadequate manual borehole.

Wishing you good health and a fruitful Lenten season.

Fr. Mathews



“ May this Lent be our time to walk with Jesus to the cross and walk in solidarity with all those who are oppressed and brokenhearted. ”

# The Palm Sunday Donkey

(continued)

by Alvaro Rossi



*In the Winter issue of the Troubadour 2019 I began the story of the Palm Sunday Donkey with the promise that it would be continued in the following Spring issue. Of course, because of the Pandemic we were not able to publish a Spring issue and so the story was left unfinished.*

*Before I continue I need to remind you of the story so far....The Palm Sunday donkey recalls how his old uncle Elias had told him of the young couple he had carried to Bethlehem some thirty years before. He had told of the birth of a little boy which inspired a sense of wonder even in the animals in the stable. The young couple were Joseph and Mary and the child, of course, Jesus. Old Elias has spoken of their flight into Egypt and the growth of the boy watching him become a small boy, then a young man and then and finally an adult. The story continues....*

As soon as he was old enough Jesus helped his father in his workshop, becoming a proficient carpenter He gave his parents no trouble and was always ready to help anyone

in need. My uncle told me a fascinating story about him when he was still a boy: along with other village children he would fashion small birds from clay, but while the others simply melted in time, Jesus' would come to life and fly away. It was at that point that Elias realised there was something very special about him. As Jesus grew to manhood, Elias watched him carefully, then when he was about thirty Jesus left home to go about his Father's business. At first Elias could not understand this. Joseph was a simple carpenter, who seemed to have enough work to keep himself busy and enable him to provide for his family. About six months later news began to filter back to Nazareth. Jesus had gathered a dozen companions around him, walking from village to village, from town to town, telling people that he wished to lead them on the true path to God's beautiful and eternal kingdom, where they will live forever in peace and harmony,

never again knowing cold, hunger or any other want. All they had to do was to love God with all their heart and soul and care for each other, treating everyone like a beloved brother or sister.

That was some three years ago and since then Jesus and his apostles had traversed the length and breadth of Israel, preaching peace and kindness. By this time I also had first-hand knowledge of him: this man performed miracles: turning water into wine; causing the blind to see; and the deaf to hear. He had also raised a man from the dead! And now on this day they wished to lead him into Jerusalem to make him King! As he hoisted himself on my back I felt a sense of power and energy flow through me, enabling me to carry him, as though he was as light as a feather, into Jerusalem. As I did so the people cheered, waving palms and calling his name.

That was about a week ago. Now it was all different. Many

of those same people who had been his most loyal supporters were now calling on the Roman Governor, Pilate, to have him crucified and release the notorious Barabbas. This was part of the custom at Passover, when the Procurator would release the prisoner the crowd called for. Against all reason and sense, they demanded the brigand's release. Once free who would no doubt return to his career of robbery, murder, rape. Why? No doubt Herod and Caiphas the High Priest had conspired to incite the crowd to do so crossing palms with a little silver. Pressure was also brought on Pilate, telling him the Emperor Tiberius would not be best pleased if he allowed this *rabble rouser* to live and incite the people against Rome. Pilate had tried to be fair, telling all who would listen that he found no fault in

this man. Eventually he gives in, calls for a basin of water and towel, washing his hands of the blood of this innocent man. Caving in entirely he orders Jesus to be taken away, first to be scourged, crowned with thorns and finally suffer that most cruel of deaths – crucifixion!

Thus it was that I watched from a discreet distance as this terrible sentence was carried out. I wept bitter tears as he was forced to carry that heavy cross all the way to Calvary. I followed as closely as I could and felt as though my heart was about to burst as they first nailed him to that terrible piece of rough wood.



As he was finally raised high on it, I thought he saw me weeping and quietly blessed me for shedding those tears on his behalf. Finally, I settled myself on the hard ground and waited for the inevitable end. He hung there quietly, uncomplaining till near the very end when he let out a terrible cry, not so much from pain, but rather of despair: Eloi. Eloi, Lama Sabachthani? (My God, My God why have you forsaken me?) Shortly after that he bowed his head and allowed the life to leave his body. AS tears blinded my eyes, exhausted, I fell into a fitful sleep. I must have been asleep for some hours, for I was awoken by the noise of people working around the cross. I saw a man, I later discovered he was called Joseph of Arimathea and some of his close friends carefully removing Jesus' lifeless body from that terrible gibbet and gently lay him in a shroud. He and they then carried it to the tomb Joseph had prepared for himself. I thought this was the

end and curled myself into the most comfortable position I could to watch over his final resting place. It was at least a day since I had last eaten but had no appetite.

Being so tired I must have slept for almost three days. I was finally roused from my torpor early in the morning of the third day by a blinding light. Two men with wings, wearing the brightest, whitest clothes I had ever seen were rolling away the stone covering the entrance. Moments later an even more dazzling light assailed my dumfounded brain, then to my utter astonishment and delight I saw Jesus emerge from the tomb. He had risen from among the dead. When he saw me sitting there patiently he came over and laid a gentle hand on my head. I then seemed to fall into the most restful sleep I had ever known, only to wake moments later to find myself in the most beautiful field of grass I had ever seen. Then to my astonishment I saw my

grandparents, who had been dead several years, looking young and frisky. Grandfather then put his head next to mine and welcomed me to donkey heaven.

Some forty days later we all gathered to welcome Jesus back to his heavenly home. He walked over and thanked me for my loyalty and the tears

I had shed. HE also told me that Uncle Elias would soon be joining us.

***THE END!  
OR THE BEGINNING?***

*He is  
Risen*  
MAT 28.6



# A Shaggy Dog Story

We all need a story like this every once in a while....



As a butcher is shooing a shaggy dog from his shop, he sees £30 and a note in his mouth reading: '8 lamb chops, please.'

Amazed, he takes the money, puts a bag of chops and the change in the shaggy dog's mouth, and and, being curious, quickly closes the shop.

He follows the shaggy dog and watches him wait for a green light, look both ways, and trot across the road to a bus-stop.

The shaggy dog carefully

checks the timetable and goes and sits on the bench.

When a bus arrives, he walks around to the front and looks at the number, then boards the bus.

The butcher follows, a little dumbstruck and takes a seat a few rows behind.

As the bus travels out into the suburbs, the shaggy dog gazes out the window, taking in the scenery, the bag of lamb chops nestled safely by his paws.

After a while he stands on his back paws to push the "stop" bell. When the doors open the dog steps out and the butcher quickly follows him off, more intrigued than ever.

The shaggy dog opens a gate and runs up to a house and drops the bag of lamb chops on the step.

He sits patiently for a few minutes but when the door is not opened he barks repeatedly.

Still no answer.

He barks some more but again gets no response

He goes back down the path,

takes a big run, and throws himself - whap! - against the door.

He does this again & again.

No answer.

So he jumps on a wall, walks around the garden, barks repeatedly at a window, jumps off, and waits at the front door.

Eventually, a small man angrily opens the door and starts cursing and shouting at the shaggy dog.

The butcher runs up and screams at the guy: "What on earth are you doing? I have followed this little chap all the way from my butcher shop. This shaggy dog's an absolute genius!"

The owner responds, "Some Genius, this is the second time this week he's gone out and forgotten to take his key!"





# La Verna Retreat Centre South Africa

Our Franciscan Province in South Africa is still struggling with various problems. They are trying to find ways of being self supporting but sometimes their problems outweigh their resources. They have a Retreat Centre on the banks of the Vaal

River at which they try to accommodate various groups and to generate some income for its upkeep. It is a beautiful place when the sun shines but unfortunately, it is also subject to flooding and difficulties with power cuts.

*Our La Verna Retreat Centre and Ofm Noviciate.*



## An update on our ongoing struggles

Fr Sipehelele is the Provincial for the SA Province and he writes:

**“May the Lord Lord give you peace.**

It has been a long time since our last communication. I hope you are still keeping well in Glasgow and that it is not too cold. We are doing reasonably well this side despite all the challenges we face.

The electricity supply situation in the country is terrible with the constant power cuts. It has affected many sectors of our society as

well as the economy, and it is the last thing the country needs as it recovers from the covid-19 lock down. This is one of the reasons I am writing to you.

La Verna is badly affected by the power cuts and we have lost regular clients because we have no back up. I would like to ask for some aid to buy a much-needed generator for the centre. The one that seems reasonable is in the region of £10,000 pounds or R230 000. Whatever is within your ability would be greatly appreciated and we will add to this the little we have.”



*The Vaal River, the largest tributary of the Orange River in South Africa, is beautiful but can also be prone to flooding.*

**“Charity, patience and tenderness are very beautiful gifts. If you have them, you want to share them with others.”**

*Pope Francis*



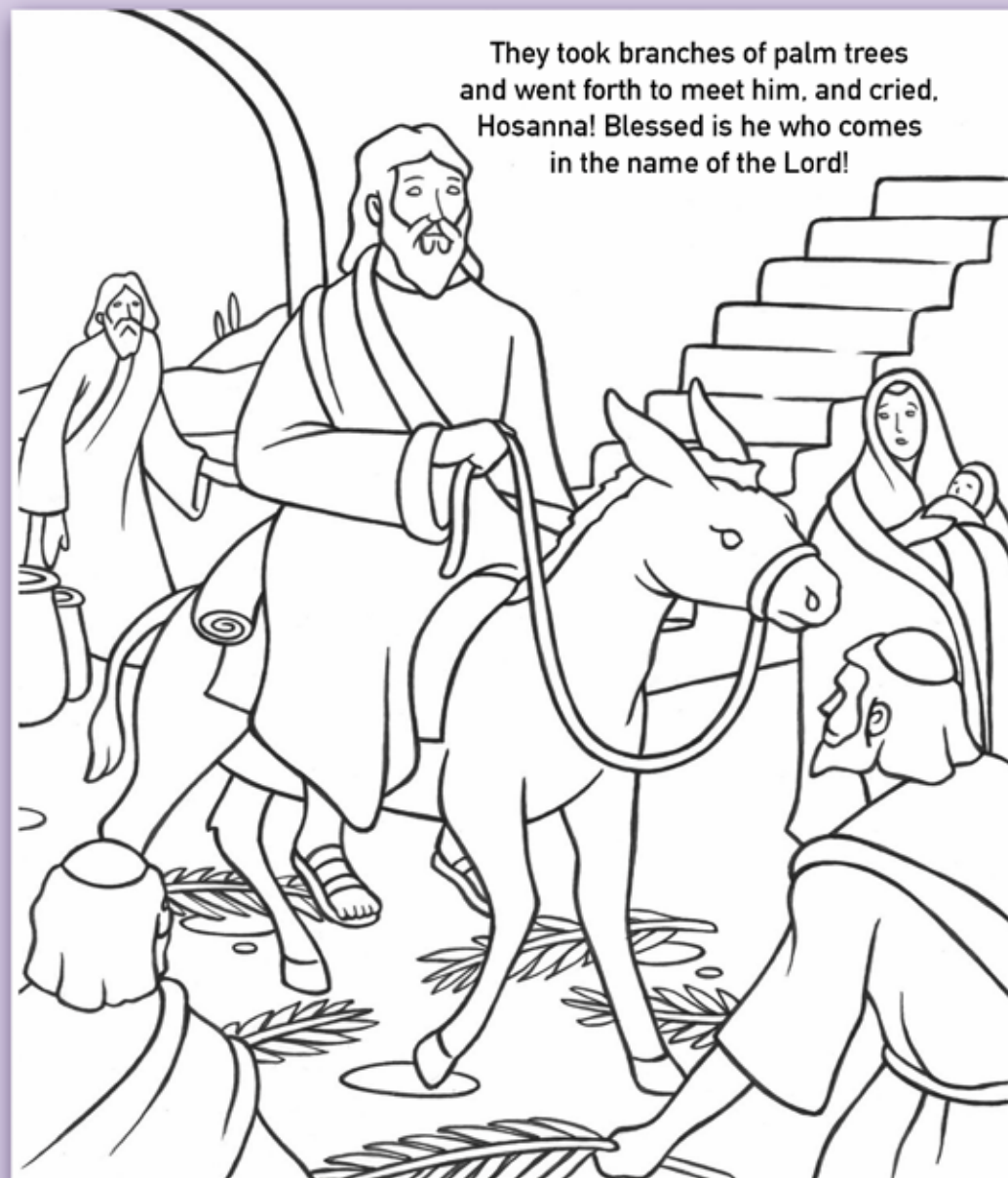
# DID YOU KNOW?

## Some Interesting Facts about Easter ...

- In most Christian denominations, Easter is preceded by Lent, a 40-day period of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving.
- The date of Easter Sunday is different every year, and it is determined by the date of the spring equinox and the cycles of the moon.
- Because the date changes every year, Easter and its related holy days, such as Ash Wednesday and Pentecost, are called "moveable feasts."
- For Eastern Orthodox Christians, Easter Sunday is the beginning of the Season of Pascha (the Greek word for Easter).
- Many Christian denominations celebrate the Easter season for 50 days, until the Day of Pentecost.
- Historians are divided about the root of the word "Easter": some believe it comes from the name of an Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring named "Eostre," while others maintain that the word is derived from a Latin word for "dawn."
- The celebration of Easter is usually preceded by Holy Week, during which the last week in Jesus Christ's life, including the Last Supper and his Passion and Crucifixion, is remembered and honored.
- Both hunting and painting eggs on Easter go back centuries. It used to be traditional to paint Easter eggs yellow, blue, or red: yellow to symbolize the Resurrection, blue to indicate love, and red as a reminder of the blood Jesus shed.
- New York City's Easter Parade came into existence in the early 20th century, when thousands started to gather on Easter Sunday to watch as the wealthy promenaded down Fifth Avenue to show off their new Easter fashions.
- Lamb, which was often used in Jewish sacrificial rites, is a traditional dish for Easter dinner, commemorating the sacrifice of Jesus, who is referred to as "the Lamb of God."
- The tradition of the Easter Bunny most likely began in the 1700s among German immigrants in America.[3]
- The Easter Rising was an insurrection led by Irish nationalists against the British government on Easter Monday of 1916. The rebellion eventually led to the creation of the Republic of Ireland on Easter Monday of 1949.
- During the 16th century, the town of Oberammergau, Germany, made a vow to perform a Passion Play – in which the sufferings and death of Jesus Christ are narrated through a dramatic performance – every decade, in return for protection from the Plague.
- When they met on Easter morning, early Christians would greet each other by saying, "Alleluia! Christ is Risen!" The traditional response for this was "He is truly risen!"
- Cadbury eggs were first introduced as an Easter confection in Europe in 1875.
- Wearing new Sunday clothing for Easter has been a tradition among Christians since the early days of the church.
- An English superstition held that Hot Cross Buns baked on Good Friday, the Friday before Easter, would never mold and could be hung as a good-luck charm, given to sailors to ensure their safe return, or even buried among stored grain to keep rodents at bay.
- The town of Bessières, France, celebrates Easter by making a giant omelette that contains around 15,000 eggs and is cooked in a frying pan that is over 13 feet in diameter.

# COLOURING PAGE

Colour this page as neatly and brightly as you can. HAVE FUN!



They took branches of palm trees and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

“ Each child has a place in God’s heart  
from all eternity; once he or she is conceived,  
the Creator’s eternal dream  
comes true. ”

Pope Francis

