

Sul y Blodau

'Sunday of the Flowers'

The Palm Sunday Procession has, through the centuries, taken different forms in different countries. In Medieval times, the procession came to a halt at the Church door. While the clergy sang hymns and antiphons, the congregation dispersed among the tombs, each family kneeling at the grave of relatives. The celebrant sprinkled holy water over the graveyard, and then the procession formed again and entered the church.

In France and the UK, the custom of decorating graves and visiting the cemeteries on Palm Sunday is still retained, in preparation for Easter. Graves are often cleaned and weeded and decked with flowers and garlands: rosemary, rue, crocuses, daffodils and primroses. It is a custom in some countries to bless not only Palm branches but also various flowers of the season, hence the name "Flower Sunday" in many countries — 'Flowering Sunday' or 'Blossom Sunday' in England, 'Blumensonntag' in Germany, 'Pâques Fleuris' in France, 'Pascua Florida' in Spain, 'Virágvasárnap' in Hungary, 'Cvetna' among the Slavic nations, 'Zaghkasart' in Armenia, and 'Sul y Blodau' ('Sunday of the Flowers') in many parts of Wales.

The custom is a strong symbol of our belief in the resurrection of the dead.

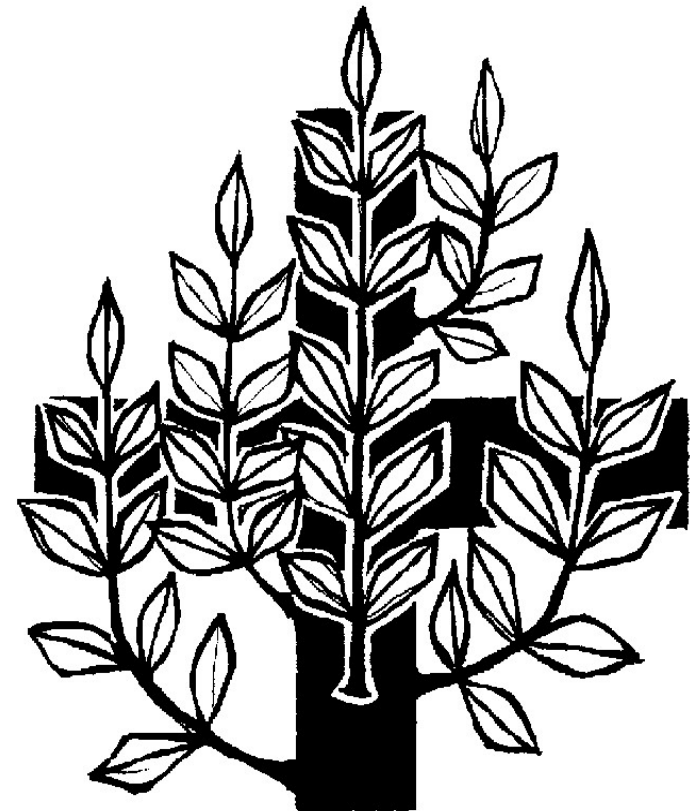


From the Parish of Cardiff St Mary the Virgin

'SUL Y BLODAU'

(Sunday of the Flowers)

PRAYERS TO USE WHEN VISITING A CEMETERY ON PALM SUNDAY



Prayers at the Graveside

These prayers are offered for people to say at the graveside when visiting on Palm Sunday

Praise be to God our Father, who raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Blessed be God for ever.

Reading

A reading from the first letter
of St Paul to the Thessalonians (4:13-18)

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father...

Prayer

Loving Father,
we rejoice in this springtime of your love,
when Jesus the Lord submitted humbly to death,
even death on a cross.
His rest in the grave
has hallowed the graves of all who have believe in you.
His resurrection from the dead
has brightened our hearts
with the hope of everlasting life.
As we bring colour

to the graves of our departed loved ones
with flowers (and palm leaves)
may our faith flourish,
and our hearts grow in your love
so that we come at last to the glory of heaven,
the new and eternal Jerusalem,
where there is no sorrow or sighing
only life everlasting. Amen.

May God in his infinite love and mercy
bring the whole Church,
living and departed in the Lord Jesus,
to a joyful resurrection
and the fulfilment of his eternal kingdom;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty Saviour, those who have died in faith have eternal joy in your presence. For us who remain, be with us in our sadness and turn our eyes to you. By your death once and for all upon the cross, raise us to new life, give us victory over death and confidence to look forward to your coming, for you are alive reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Eternal rest, grant unto *him/her*, O Lord
and let perpetual light shine upon *him/her*.

May *his/her* soul and the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

