

Today's Good News – Jesus' Entry Into Victory Over Sin and Death – Palm Sunday – April 5th, 2020 (Isaiah 50:4-7, Philippians 2:6-11, Matthew 26:14-27, 66) By Fr. Emmanuel Subaar

My brothers and sisters, today we begin Holy Week with the celebration of Palm Sunday, the celebration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The circumstances in which we find ourselves currently will not allow us to meet together for the public celebration of this most important week of the Church's Celebration.

Due to the pandemic, priests have been celebrating masses alone or with only two or three others, but this should not be seen as the "priest's mass". According to the Second Vatican Council, the Liturgy, even if it is celebrated by the priest alone, has by its nature public and social disposition. So, during the Holy Week the Liturgy that the Bishop or priests celebrate should be understood to be in communion with you the faithful entrusted to us as members of the church.

We are gradually entering into the climax of the Lenten Season with Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on a donkey. If we had gathered together today, we would have procession into the church carrying palm branches symbolising Christ's victory over sin and death. Few branches are blessed in the church or we can get our own palm branches blessed and put in our houses as a sign of victory and peace. As we do this, let us believe that just as Christ was victorious over sin and death, we too shall be victorious over sin, death or even Covid-19 in the name of Jesus. The blessed palm branches waved to welcome Jesus our victorious King should be a sign of Victory and Hope for a brighter future.

According to today's gospel, Jesus decides to enter into Jerusalem to undergo his death and resurrection riding on a humbled donkey. We are told in the gospel that even the donkey was borrowed. In fact, Jesus never owned anything while he lived on earth. His place of birth was borrowed. Foxes have holes and birds have nests, but Jesus did not have any place to lay his head. We are also told that the upper room was borrowed for him to have his Passover meal with his disciples. Finally, the tomb or sepulchre in which Jesus was buried was borrowed as it belonged to Joseph of Arimathea. This is the victorious King Jesus that we follow as Christians, he was very humble and did not own any earthly thing he could boast about.

Dear Friends in Christ let us be like the donkey that leads Jesus into Jerusalem to go through his Paschal Mystery. The whole week from today until Easter Sunday should be seen as one unit and it is Humility that made it possible. Let us humble our hearts and let Christ make his triumphal entry into our hearts not into the physical Jerusalem but into the spiritual one, our hearts. If we humble our hearts and allow Christ make entry into our hearts, he will conquer all sins and deaths in our hearts and replenish our hearts with hope, joy and victory. Amen.