

## HOMILIES FROM THE HERMITAGE

On view of the current isolation and detachment from normal ministry, it seemed good to provide some other ways in which to keep in contact. There will be some ‘thoughts’ (not each day), some shared ideas and maybe some pleasantries.

### CORONA 11

#### PALM SUNDAY/PASSION SUNDAY

This day takes us into the Church’s highest week and we move to Jerusalem, through Jesus’ Supper. Passion and death, to the joy and victory of His Resurrection.

Palm Sunday carries two high points: a) Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem b) Jesus’ Passion and death, so that this day encapsulates all that we shall celebrate.

The Liturgy starts with the blessing of the palm branches and the celebratory entry into Jerusalem when Jesus is feted as Messiah ‘blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.’ After the blessing we hear the Gospel of the Palm entry (this year the account of St. Matthew) There may well be a homily and then the procession of the palms.

Then as we enter Mass the mood changes suddenly: no more fanfare of joyous chorus but instead ‘Away with Him’ the same crowds demand Pilate of Jesus. The first reading is one of the ‘servant songs’ from Isaiah—the suffering and obedient servant. (All of the suffering servant songs are proclaimed during this week, ending on Good Friday.) Then we have the wonderful canticle from Paul’s letter to the Phillipians. Ch 22/6-11—which should be our theme song during the week. Finally we have the Passion according to St. Matthew.

Why did the crowds change so swiftly and violently? Maybe because on the Sunday they believed Him to be an earthly saviour who would saved them from the yoke of the Romans and re-establishment of the Kingdom of David. It maybe the key of the donkey: the donkey is an animal of peace: if Jesus had come as a warrior saviour He would have come as a horse: the donkey does not deny his coming as a saviour, but as a saviour of peace. It would easy for the zealots and agitators if that time would realize that Jesus was not to be their kind of King. Indeed it is may be why Judas reject Jesus (?or maybe because he was caught as a thief). Our commitment and prayer is that we shall not reject Jesus but shall follow Him to Calvary and to His resurrection. If we wave our palm branches and cry of ‘Hosanna to the Son of David!’ (a Messianic title) on Palm Sunday we undertake to follow Jesus through these weeks. This year may we accept our very difficult cross in the love and obedience of Jesus and to try to jump straight from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday,

***Lectio/meditate: Have this mind among yourselves which is yours in Christ Jesus, who though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of humans. And being formed in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even the death of the Cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.***

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