

PALM SUNDAY REFLECTIONS

We celebrate today as both Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday. Today's liturgy combines contrasting moments of glory ("Hosanna") and suffering ("Crucify him"). We call this Palm Sunday as also Passion Sunday. Generally, we associate the word passion with strong emotions of fear, love, hatred and anger. Passion is also unlimited zeal and enthusiasm and this enthusiasm can be negative or positive.

Even we are distressed and fearful in this particular time of pandemic Coronavirus, we need to keep the passion within us. There is a God who is all powerful and Almighty is with us. He will protect us and help me in this alarming and disturbing time. Even though we are unable to participate the Sunday Mass, we hold in our hand the same power of that Jesus has granted to us. He is the mighty king and saviour in our fearful situation.

The entire life of Jesus was full of passion. There are three affirmations about the future king. First, he says he will be a king of the poor, a poor man among the poor and for the poor. Poverty in Jesus' sense -- presupposes above all interior freedom from avarice and the will to power. Secondly, the prophet shows us that this king will be a king of peace: The new weapon Jesus puts in our hands is the cross, sign of love that is stronger than death.

The crowd acclaimed Jesus: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Mark 11:9; Psalm 117 [118]:25f.). These palms, let them be a reminder of this week, that we are

beginning - the holiest week of the year. But we shouldn't just leave it at that. Don't just tuck them behind a holy picture and take them for granted. Let them also serve as a challenge. And a remembrance. They challenge us to remember...Christ's suffering and death - the triumph of that ride into Jerusalem, and the tragedy of Calvary. They challenge us to remember...our role in that passion - that what Christ suffered, he suffered for us. But they also challenge us to remember...what will become of these palms...and become of us. My prayer this Palm Sunday is that we carry that idea that Jesus is with us even in our loneliness and distrustful time. I dedicate you all in my daily mass and adoration. In my all spiritual activities I place your families and your personal intentions. Praying for all those who work in the frontline to serve the life of our people and community. My Almighty and the King of the Universe comes and strengthen you all.