

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



Palm Sunday introduces us to Holy Week, and the Celebration of the Paschal Triduum, the Death and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Today we begin Mass with the Blessing of the palms enter the Church in procession singing Hosanna, Hosanna Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Jesus entered Jerusalem on a humble donkey, accompanied by the multitude who were a whipped up into a frenzy at the prospect of God's Messiah who had come to set things right.

What we are doing today is not just a theatrical reenactment of an event that happened two thousand years ago. The palm leaves we hold are parts of the palm branch, which looks like a back bone, or a spine. The palm is considered a sign of witness, of martyrdom, of having a back bone. It is a sign of being able to stand up for, and to give witness to, what is right and just.

The problem is that our idea of what is right and just is not what the Messiah had in mind. Jesus knows this very well, and he is not fooled or carried away by the adulation of the multitude. The Gospel of the Passion which is narrated at Mass today gives evidence of this. Our cries of Hosanna, Hosanna, will soon turn to shouts of Crucify him, Crucify him.

The crowd wanted an all-conquering hero. Finally, somebody who was going to put things right. A Messiah who was going to do away with injustice, political strife, social upheaval, economic woes, difficulties, ailments and sickness; a Messiah who would sprinkle fairy dust, wave his magic wand and make everything wonderful.

But all that we perceive as wrong with the world is really just an exterior manifestation of a deeper reality. One sees leaves on a tree, but they would not be there if it were not for the roots, which cannot be seen. There is a root cause of our woes and travails, which lies within. Jesus will go to the root cause of human suffering. This root cause has a name: our sin, our rebellion against Our Father, our having made of ourselves God Almighty, our thinking we are entitled to decide for ourselves what is right and wrong.

This Palm Sunday is evidence of the love which God the Father has for each one of us. Jesus Christ will be crucified for our sin, our rebellion, and he will be Raised from the dead. In doing so he wipes out the condemnation that was ours, and restores us to the Paradise which is the Peace we find in experiencing God's Love.