



24 March 2024
PALM SUNDAY - B



INTRODUCTION:

As we enter the Holy Week we are struck by apparent contradictions. The Mass begins with the reading of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem with palm branches and cries of Hosanna while the full narrative of the Passion of Christ is read, culminating with Jesus' death on the Cross. Christ's entrance into that holy city was rightly celebrated with great joy, even though the people did not yet understand that the throne their new King would mount was the Cross. The palms in our hands and the Hosannas we proclaim are in worship of Jesus, the Saviour of the World.

READINGS:

First Reading: Is 50: 4-7
Responsorial Psalm: Ps 22: 8-9, 17-18a, 19-20, 23-24
Second Reading: Phil 2: 6-11
Gospel: Mk 14: 1-15:47

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

CELEBRANT:

We bring our petitions to God with the humility that Jesus showed in his life and death. Our response is: **LOVING LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER**

That the Holy Father, Bishops, Clergy, Religious and the Lay Faithful; may always be obedient to the call of Jesus, and work together with humility... we pray...

That our secular leaders may reflect the leadership of Jesus as they work for the wellbeing of all, especially the financially challenged, the marginalised, the refugees and prisoners... we pray...

That we may all celebrate this Holy Week with renewed faith, penance and gratitude... we pray...

That our children and youth may experience the solemnity of the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord with reverence and spiritual fervour... we pray...

That God may listen to the prayers we offer with faith in His mercy... (Pause for 7 seconds)... we pray...

CELEBRANT: Merciful Father, you call us each year to remember your Son's entry into Jerusalem and to celebrate his passion, death and resurrection. Hear our prayers and give us grace to follow Christ, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.