

## **HOMILY – PALM SUNDAY – 9 APRIL 2017**

### **SHORT HOMILY (START OF MASS – BLESSING OF THE PALMS)**

So, here we are, Palm Sunday, in the year of Our Lord 2017, on the threshold of Holy Week. The week of all weeks for us Catholic Christian People of God. Jesus Christ knows exactly what he has to do for our salvation. He organises his entry into the Holy City of Jerusalem, riding on a donkey/simple colt, not a warhorse/chariot. For He is an eternal King of Peace, with a radical sense of the true kingdom.

What about you and me? Do you know exactly what you are doing for your own salvation? What preparations are we making for the judgement of God? Am I truly open to Jesus Christ and what He is asking of me? Remember, the citizens of Jerusalem today are welcoming Jesus as a Messiah but a few days later, the citizens of the same city were shouting 'Crucify Him, Crucify Him!' How fickle the mind of mankind! Help me Lord to be steadfast in faith.

### **HOMILY – (AFTER THE PASSION OF MATTHEW)**

There used to be a shop for large or oversized people called "High & Mighty". It had a picture of Henry VIII on its window. I don't know anyone who would be encouraged to buy a suit from a shop promoted by a 'High & Mighty despotic King', full of his own self-importance. Would you?

What about you and me? Are we conscious of our own self-importance? Our status? Our rights and privileges? The material world peddles a great myth that we are a very important customer, when in reality they want our money. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, had no money, no land, no property, even the clothes he had were taken from him and soldiers threw dice to take them. Jesus died naked but utterly at one with the Father. He kept his promises, he saw through to the passion and death, his mission on earth. By surrendering everything, He gained for us our salvation.

In the revelation of the Passion, he warns us all to do three key things: Firstly, to stay awake to the path to eternal life that the Holy Spirit is leading you on. Not to fall asleep like the apostles in Gethsemane, because the Kingdom of God is at hand. Secondly, not to become 'High and Mighty' like the leading Pharisees and the Sanhedrin. These religious leaders are very self-conscious about their own importance. So much so, they blind themselves to the presence of Christ, the Messiah, in their midst. Remember, it is easy to be humble when you are mocked, spat upon, whipped and scourged. Thirdly, that we like Jesus are all destined to die. His Blessed Mother Mary was assumed into Heaven but it was planned by the Father, that his Beloved Son, would die for our sake. So that His Death would change death forever. Christ died in humility to rise to glory. Now, in faith, He invites us to live in humble love and service, that we too may rise in glory.

To finish, remember, the famous words of St Thomas More, the beheaded former Chancellor of Henry VIII, the High and Mighty King. St Thomas declared, "I owe my first loyalty to my God, then secondly, to my King".

God Bless you all.

Amen