

## 2021 Palm Sunday

**1. Today Jesus comes to Jerusalem in the name of the Lord.** The crowds cry out and we cry out with them, “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” In other words, “in the name of the Lord” means “in the name of his Father”. **Jesus comes to Jerusalem in the name of his Father.** Let us welcome Jesus the only begotten Son of God with knowledge that our heavenly Father himself is sending him to us. **With the same knowledge we, too, enter Holy Week as he does.**

**2. But what does it mean to welcome Jesus in the name of his Father?** How is it possible to do that today? Jesus enters Jerusalem to accomplish his Passion. He freely walks his way of the Cross in order that you and I may be saved from slavery to the devil, to the bondage of our sins and to the tyranny of death. **“How could those for whom he was nailed to the Cross,” says St. Ambrose, “not always be in front of his eyes?”** He carries us in his heart. He knows that unless we share in his own passion and death and resurrection we will not have eternal life. Yet we are like bystanders, watching this momentous event unfold at a distance from him. We can’t accomplish so great plan as he does. **So how can we welcome him?**

**3. To welcome Jesus on Palm Sunday is to welcome what he welcomed.** It is to welcome the Passion of Jesus into our lives. Just as he made the passion the goal of his love for us, so also the **passion of Jesus Christ must become the goal of our love for him.** But if welcoming Jesus is welcoming the Passion of Christ into our lives, how can we do that?

**4. How can the Passion of Jesus of Nazareth become the goal of our life?** Shall we travel to Jerusalem? Yes! Go up to Jerusalem,

the city of your sins! Let Jerusalem become the place where the secret thoughts and decisions of your heart are laid bare along your *via crucis*! Let Jerusalem become your way of the Cross! How is it possible do that? **By your patience and imitation of Jesus.**

**5. It is unlikely that any of us will undergo a passion like the one Jesus suffered.** But Jesus gives us many opportunities to practise patience exactly as he did. An example of voluntary patience was that of St. Mary Helen MacKillop, the first Saint of Australia, also known in religion as Mary of the Cross. In her work as a religious sister from 1867-1909, she was not always treated well. **She was excommunicated by an ill-advised bishop, treated badly by another bishop, accused of immorality, financial irresponsibility and antagonism towards priests.** On top of this she suffered poor health! Yet through all this, she remained faithful to Christ, loyal to the priests and obedient to the bishops.

**6.** Cardinal George Pell said of her, “I think the reason why Mary MacKillop is so widely accepted by Catholics and non-Catholics alike is that she was so obviously very good but also very normal, not at all eccentric or pretentious.” St. Mary MacKillop struggled like we do, but not without perseverance in the face of adversity, not without resolution in the face of injustice, not without forgiveness towards those who treated her unfairly. **She tried to be charitable and calm.**

**7. Patience is a passion!** Not a “feeling” but a suffering. Your patience can also become your Palm Sunday. Consider Jesus and whom he encounters in Jerusalem on his way of the Cross. Mary Magdalene, Judas, Peter, Caiaphas, Pilate, the soldiers, Barabbas, Simon of Cyrene, Mary his mother, and Joseph of Arimathea. Consider Jesus’ response to each of these persons. **Identify**

**these Josephs and Judases and Pilates in your own life, community or family and do to them as Jesus did to them.** Then Jesus' passion will become your passion, and this Palm Sunday will become your Palm Sunday and Jesus' sufferings will become your sufferings. Your patience will become his passion, and his resurrection will become your resurrection. **And this Eucharist will truly be a Eucharist for you!**