



## PALM SUNDAY:

Dear friends, today we celebrate the Palm Sunday or the Passion Sunday. But this year the Palm Sunday is quite different than the rest of the years, because this year we celebrate of Jesus triumph entry to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover without people weaving palm branches due to Covid19. The gospels record the arrival of Jesus riding into the city on a donkey, while the crowds spread their cloaks and palm branches on the street and shout “Hosanna to the Son of David” and “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord” and they honor him as their long-awaited Messiah and King. The significance of Jesus riding a donkey and having his way paved with palm branches is a fulfillment of a prophecy spoken by the prophet Zechariah and in so doing emphasized the humility that was to characterize the Kingdom he proclaimed. In biblical times, the regional custom called for kings and nobles arriving in procession to ride on the back of a donkey. The donkey was a symbol of peace; those who rode upon them proclaimed peaceful intentions. The laying of palm branches indicated that the king or dignitary was arriving in victory or triumph. As Jesus began His exuberant entrance into Jerusalem, many people gathered on the road and spread their clothes in front of him and shout Hosanna. The church today holds a similar procession to remember the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and also to remind people of the beginning of the Passion of our Lord. The simplest of terms, Palm Sunday is an occasion for reflecting on the final week of Jesus’ life. It is a time for Christians to prepare their hearts for the agony of His Passion and death while awaiting the joy of His Resurrection. Even though we are not gathering at the Church to begin the Holy week, we can still be part of the celebration by doing our private prayers, reading the passion of our Lord, meditating on it. I know for all of us this is the first time that we miss the Holy week, and Pascal triduum. We are experiencing an unprecedented situation let us pray to the Lord, soon to ease this health crisis. I continue to celebrate the Holy Eucharist privately, pray for your intentions and of the whole world.

Fr. Jerome Mascarenhas