

Take Away the Stone
Palm Sunday Homily
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Today, we remember, we re-enter and we celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into the city of Jerusalem. Today, we also stand at the doorstep of Holy Week, in which we will encounter the most profound mysteries of life and death, God and man, love and sin.

But, first, before we cry out, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" let us go back to last weeks' Gospel from St. John. In that Gospel, Jesus arrived in Bethany, a mere two miles from Jerusalem. Jesus went to Bethany to visit His friend, Lazarus, who was sick. But, Jesus arrived too late, four days too late. When meeting Martha and Mary, Lazarus' sisters, Jesus was confronted with the fact of Lazarus' death. Jesus proceeds with Martha and Mary to the tomb. When they stood before the tomb, Jesus said, "Take Away the Stone."

Today, at the gates of Jerusalem, Jesus says to each and everyone of Us, "*Take Away the Stone!*" "*Take Away the Stone and enter into My Most Sacred Heart.*" Allow ME to enter into your heart. Journey with Me into Jerusalem; be in My Heart during All the events of this Holy Week, enter into My Heart and allow Me to teach you so many things and to allow Me to show you how much I love each of you."

"Take Away the Stone and enter into My Sacred Heart, and be present with Me at My Last Supper. Listen to My Heart-beat just as St. John did when he laid His head against My breast." Enter into My Heart as I break bread with you and as I say, 'This is My Body, which will be given up for you; take and eat of it.' Enter into My Heart as I bless the chalice of wine and declare, 'This is the chalice of My Blood which will be given up for you, take and drink of it.' Let Me enter into your heart with My Real Presence and become one with you. Enter my heart and listen to My Last Divine Will and Testament."

"Take Away the Stone and enter into My Sacred Heart as I go into the Garden of Gethsemane to pray for each of you. Be with Me as I take on your sins and the sins of the whole world. I won't ask you to suffer with Me, but, rather, to be with Me and to feel the Love that I feel for you in My Heart; the Love that compels Me to take on your sins. I merely ask you to stay awake with Me, to pray with Me and to remain with Me."

"Take Away the Stone and enter into My Sacred Heart that I may give you a thirst, a desire for me as I have a thirst for you."

"Take Away the Stone and enter into My Sacred Heart as I am roughly arrested, having been betrayed by a friend. Stay with Me; don't run away! I will protect you and I will give you courage. Let Me enter your heart and comfort you when you are betrayed by those you love."

"Take Away the Stone and enter into My Sacred Heart as I am savagely scourged. Feel My joy, a joy that I am able to save you and all mankind and be punished for all ALL of you and then that all may be with Me forever. Let Me enter your heart that I may ease the pain of your temporal suffering by the promise of always being with you."

“Take Away the Stone and enter into My Sacred Heart as I am being crowned with thorns. Feel My joy as the leaders of this world mock Me and abuse Me, for only in humiliation, can I save them from their pride and their lust for power. Allow Me to enter your heart and accompany you as you are bullied and hurt by the world and especially by those whom you love.”

“Take Away the Stone and enter into My Sacred Heart as I am tried, condemned to death and made to carry My own cross; carry it to My new throne on Calvary. I will carry the cross and I will feel the blows but you can wipe My face and you can help Me up when I fall. Your presence in My Heart will greatly comfort My Mother. Let Me enter your heart and walk with you on your journey to your personal Calvary.”

“Take Away the Stone and enter into My Sacred Heart as I am stripped, nailed to the cross and lifted up in crucifixion. I will suffer the pains, the worst possible pains, but you can stand by My Mother, you can wipe her tears, you can wipe the blood from her face as she embraces My feet. Be there with her as they pierce My Merciful Heart and let the Blood and Water from My heart sprinkle your head. Sprinkle you with the graces of Baptism and Holy Eucharist. Let Me enter into your heart and teach you the true value of your life, a life so valued that I was willing to give My life - for your life.

After my death, help take My Body down from the cross and place Me in the tomb. Then, *roll back the stone*. I will take all your sins, now expiated, and place them before My Father’s Feet. Then, I will open the gates of heaven for you.

On Easter Sunday, I WILL *“Take Away the Stone” and bring you life*. Enter My Heart, the Church, and live in it. Let Me enter your heart in the Eucharist, and, I will stay with you forever. Stay with you that you may bring Me to others.

Now, *“Take Away the Stone and enter into My Most Sacred Heart and journey with Me into Jerusalem and stay in My Heart during this most Holy Week.”*