

## Passion Sunday

My beloved brothers and sisters, today's Gospel is the Gospel of the Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem. You might ask: "why would we call the beginning of the Passion of Jesus Triumphal?". It is the Triumph of Jesus, because He has come to take possession of His Kingdom. He reminds us that His Kingdom is not of this world; rather, it is to be found in every human heart, who believes in Him and His teaching, and who stake their lives upon Him. Jesus is the gentle, obedient King, the Anointed One, the Messiah, the Christ.

The Triumphal entry is the unfolding of the sacred drama of our salvation in the Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Lord. It is the plan that we see in the very person of Jesus by which the promise of God made to Adam and Eve, is unfolded, and by which He establishes His Kingdom!

Today, we celebrate His Divine Triumph over the forces of evil that want to keep locked into the stench and rot of death, which we heard in the Rising of Lazarus-Elieazar: for God alone is our help.

Today the Palm branches, the ancient Roman sign of victory, are waived and celebrate the Victory of our Divine King. However, the question remains: "are we merely spectators, who will soon go about our business when the hard things of life, the many passions in our lives begin to appear?" We are called, not to be spectators, but active participants in His Triumph- through His Passion, Death and Resurrection.

You constantly hear me remind you that I am only Jesus' Cristophoros, His donkey, the earliest reference to a priest or bishop in the Church; however, each one of you is also called to be His donkeys, His beasts of burden, bearing Jesus upon your lives into your families and into the world! The image of the donkey is the fulfilment of the prophecy of Zechariah, that the Messiah, the King of Peace, would enter His Kingdom on a donkey never before ridden. In the ancient world, if a King approached another on a Donkey's colt, he was coming in peace; if, however, he came on a horse, it meant he had come to bring war! This means

that Jesus, our King of Peace, desires to enter into our lives, bringing His Divine Peace!

The cities of the ancient world were surrounded by huge walls. Very often, we do the same with our hearts. Jesus wants to enter in, but can only do so, if we open the gates of our hearts! And I cannot be the gentle donkey He needs to enter into the hearts of others, until I first allow Him to take possession of my heart! Will you let Him?