

## Homily Palm Sunday 2025

‘We are called to humility, love, service and sacrifice.’

Today, Palm Sunday, we enter the most sacred week of our Liturgical Year, a week that calls us to relive the journey with Jesus in His Passion, Death and Resurrection. Holy Week invites us to reflect on the powerful but paradoxical nature of Jesus’ kingship. As we wave our palm branches in joyful celebration, we also remember the sorrowful events that will soon follow.

The crowds which greet Jesus as He enters Jerusalem do so with great enthusiasm, shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!” They believe He is the long-awaited Messiah, the King who would restore Israel’s glory and liberate them from their oppressors. They envisage a powerful, earthly king who will overthrow their enemies.

Just days later, this same crowd will turn on Jesus. The same voices that shouted “Hosanna” will cry out, “Crucify Him!” Their expectations of a worldly Messiah are shattered, for Jesus has not come to conquer through military might or political power. He comes to conquer our hearts, to overcome sin and death, and to show us the true nature of love—a love that is sacrificial, selfless, merciful and transformative.

The contrast between Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem and the Passion that follows is striking. The humble King, riding on a donkey, an unriden colt is the very image of a servant leader. In the eyes of the world, He is a King who appears weak, vulnerable, and misunderstood. But in the Kingdom of God, He is the true King, the one who reigns not from a throne of gold but from The Cross.

This contradiction—Jesus’ humble entrance as a King, followed by His suffering and death—invites us to consider the deeper meaning of His mission. He is not the King we expect, but He is the King we need. He does not meet our worldly desires for power, control, or glory. Instead, He calls us, His disciples to follow Him on the path of humility, love, service and sacrifice. Jesus shows us that true greatness is not about lording over others, but serving them, even to the point of laying down your life for them.

Do we seek a Jesus who will fulfil our personal ambitions, or do we seek the Jesus who offers us His life so that we might offer our own lives, in the love of the weak and vulnerable? This Palm Sunday, let us make a renewed commitment to walk with Jesus throughout Holy Week. Let us embrace His call to humility service, mercy and love and let us prepare our hearts to experience the full mystery of His Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

May our celebration today not only be one of joy but also of reflection, as we relive the events which proclaim that Jesus came to serve, to sacrifice, and to save. Let us allow His love to transform us, so that we too, may become humble merciful and compassionate servants of His Kingdom.