

## From The Desk of Fr. Patrick

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, the most sacred time in the Christian journey, as we reflect on the Passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. On this day, we remember how Jesus entered Jerusalem in humility, riding on a donkey, while the crowds welcomed Him with great enthusiasm. They spread cloaks on the road, waved palm branches, and cried out with joy, "*Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!*" (cf. Gospel of Matthew 21:9).

Yet the same voices that shouted "Hosanna," would only days later cry out, "*Crucify him! Crucify him!*" This dramatic shift reveals the weakness and inconsistency of the human heart. The people welcomed Jesus when they expected a powerful earthly king, someone who would fulfill their desires and bring immediate change. But when Jesus did not meet their expectations, when He spoke of sacrifice, humility, and the cross, they turned against Him.

Palm Sunday is not just a story about people long ago; it is a mirror of our own lives. How often do we praise God when things go well, and then turn away when life becomes difficult? How often do we say "Hosanna" in moments of blessing, but "Crucify Him" through our actions when we ignore His teachings, fail to forgive, or choose comfort over faithfulness?

This day invites us to examine our relationship with Christ. Are we followers only in moments of joy, or also in moments of sacrifice? True discipleship means walking with Jesus not only in celebration, but also on the road to Calvary. It means remaining faithful when it is easy and when it is difficult.

Despite the rejection He faced, Jesus continued His journey to the cross out of love. He knew the crowd would turn against Him, yet He did not turn away from them. His love is constant, faithful, and unconditional. As Scripture reminds us, "*God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us*" (cf. Epistle to the Romans 5:8).

As we enter Holy Week, Palm Sunday challenges us to move beyond superficial faith. It calls us to deeper commitment, to stand with Christ not only in moments of praise but also in moments of trial. Let us ask for the grace to be faithful disciples, steadfast in love, strong in faith, and willing to carry our crosses.

May this Palm Sunday transform our hearts, so that our "Hosanna" is not just a passing emotion, but a lifelong commitment to follow Christ wherever He leads, even to the cross, trusting that beyond it lies the glory of the resurrection.

-Fr. Patrick