

From the Pastor's Office

Palm Sunday

The great Hosanna. Jesus arrives in Jerusalem for the Paschal feast. Many thousands, hundreds of thousands arrived at the same time as Jesus. The city of Jerusalem swelled into the valleys and countryside all around. Think of a huge tented city full of pilgrims. In a small scene by one of the gates leading into Jerusalem, Jesus is met by some of His followers who give Him a royal welcome. The palm branches and the hosannas are out. Down the street the Pharisees are watching. All over the city the Roman soldiers stand guard. You never know what might happen when so many people come to the city at the same time. The great drama begins. We sit at the Last Supper. We witness the betrayal of Judas. They arrest Jesus. They perform their civic duties by putting Jesus on trial. It is all a sham. The people have been planted to shout "Crucify Him" at the signal. For the vast majority of people standing in the square they are just strangers witnessing a public trial of some guilty blackguard. These public trials were witnessed every day in every town and village in the Roman Empire. We struggle to watch them whip Jesus at the post. We can't avoid the parade of the those condemned as they walk to Calvary. The streets are small and narrow. They have to witness this, they have no choice. We hear the cries of the women. We always hear the cries of the women. The soldiers waiting on Calvary do their duty. They strip Jesus of His garments. In a matter of minutes He is mounted on the cross. Another couple of minutes and the nails are bashed into His body and the slow death begins. The people go silent. All we can hear is the cry of the women. We always hear the cry of the women. Mary is silent. She is numb. Her women friends do the crying for her. Every breath is agony for Jesus and those who witness it. Death comes. We are bereft. We don't know where to turn to. We wonder how could this happen. Why did this happen? Jesus is the Son of God and we crucified Him on Calvary. We crucify Jesus the Son of God on Calvary every day. Insofar as you did this to the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me

With love,
Fr. Pat