

From the Pastor's Office

Palm Sunday

Coming into Holy Week our feelings change. We know that we are about to witness something that is terrible to our eyes. We care about Jesus and we don't want the Romans to destroy Him the way we know they can. We want to save Jesus from all this. Turn away Jesus and go hide yourself in Galilee. From the beginning, Jesus prophesied that His story would end in Jerusalem. This is the home of His enemies. Jesus did not regard them as His enemies. They were just misguided. They were cast as the villains. At the end Jesus said about them, "Father, forgive them because they don't know what they are doing." It is the time of the great feast of Passover in Jerusalem. The city is packed with visitors. There are crowds everywhere. The narrow streets are filled with people wandering. Outside on the hilltops, shepherds wait with their herds of sheep kept waiting for their slaughter. A little group of people wait by one of the gates watching for Jesus to arrive. When He comes they greet the visitors and bring them to the place where they will stay. At every gate, Roman soldiers stand on guard. The Roman garrison is on high alert. Pharisees and Scribes watch for sight of Jesus. Messengers relayed that Jesus of Nazareth was on his way to Jerusalem. They saw him walking on the pilgrim road from Jericho. Jesus and the Apostles are tense as they enter the city. Most people have no idea who He is. The spies know what to look out for. When they see Jesus and His friends enter the city word goes out. He is here. Let's wait a second before we arrest Him. We want to see what He will do next. Jesus and His Apostles sit down to their meal which turns into some kind of farewell dinner. Everyone knows and everyone waits. They are anxious. When will the Romans come? What is going to happen to Jesus? During this drama, the story is taken away from us. The Romans with the Pharisees become the major players. Jesus is taken from us. We become spectators. People move to their appointed places. The Apostles become part of the crowd so they are shoved back. Pilate and the High Priests come to the fore to proclaim their condemnation. As far as most people are concerned this is a side show. Another criminal bites the dust. This was a daily occurrence in Jerusalem. Criminals and opportunists have crowded into Jerusalem. We came to celebrate Passover but now we get to see the Roman machinery in action. I have always wanted to watch the spectacle of crucifixion. Now I get to see it for myself. This is great. Two for the price of one. We the people of faith have our own appointed seats at this drama. We position ourselves to see everything. We will agonize with Jesus and the Apostles. This is going to be bad, really bad, and we can't do anything to stop it. That is the way of the cross. We can't bypass it. There is no easy way. We have to journey through the pain and get to the other side. This event will transform us forever.



With love,
Fr. Pat