

Palm Sunday Reflection from Fr. Olivet

Today is Palm Sunday. The beginning of Holy Week. Happy to know we are still among the living, all by the grace of God. May his name be praised. As Covid-19 rages, we are not yet able as usual to gather as a family for our most cherished Sacrifice; the Eucharistic celebration. I know how much you love and miss the Mass and other Sacrament, especially in this season of special grace.

I know there are questions on the lips of many, such as; where is our Almighty God? Why did he allow our celebrations, our Lenten season and Easter preparations to be so suddenly and badly interrupted in this manner? The world is grounded, the church where we worship him is under lock and key, community life is halted, people are dying, food and medical supplies are dwindling, and we are ordered to keep a distance from relatives and friends. What is happening?

Some Christians are worried; is the world ending? And they cry out like Jesus; "Eloi Eloi lama sabachthani", my God, my God, why have you forsaken me. (Matt. 27.46). Even people who did not profess any faith before, are also calling on God for answers and help. Well, one thing is clear, Covid-19 did not create the world and it cannot end the world. As it came, so shall it go. The world is in God's hand. This is just one world event according to the book of Ecclesiastes 3;1, "there is an appointed time for everything". As we go through this crisis time, the time for God's healing mercy will follow soon. God has not abandoned us. So stay alive and strong to experience his healing mercy.

As it is at the moment, many do not know what to do or what to expect next, so what do we do as we wait for this unfailing healing mercy of God? Isaiah gives us the answer in today's first reading. He says; **"The Lord God has given me the tongue..., that I may know how to sustain with a word those that are weary"**. By this he means we should thank God we are still alive, and then use our tongues, our telephones, laptops, and computers to reach out and speak words of hope and encouragement to people. So many are lonely, confused, discouraged and are losing hope, they need us to revive and give them new life. We call, pray with them and laugh with them. We should also pray for those infected, and all the sick. Reach out too to the researchers, doctors, nurses etc, if we know any to encourage and thank them for the work they are doing. So for Isaiah, as long as we are still alive and have a voice, we can do a lot in helping our brothers and sisters to keep hanging on. So let us get going. God who gave us voice will use our voices to work his miracle to save life.

This too surely will pass away and we shall be alive to tell the story. God bless and keep all of us. Amen. HAPPY PALM SUNDAY.