

A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY
FORTY FIVE DAYS TOWARDS THE CROSS
FROM DEACON CHRIS
LENT 2024

Palm Sunday : Fortieth Station: Jesus enters Jerusalem in triumph but will leave it in abject failure. Or will he.

“We adore you, O Christ etc.

Luke Chapter 19 verses 28 to 40

Palm Sunday **Procession** Year C

Reflection

Sir Walter Raleigh put his cloak over a puddle to keep Queen Elizabeth 1's feet dry. The crowds pre-date this when they put their cloaks on the road where our Lord was riding on a donkey. What will we put down? Will it be our cloaks, palm branches or will it be ourselves? Will we sing/shout 'Hosanna' and mean it?

Do our allegiances change according to the groundswell or do we stand firm?

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory be.

I love you, Jesus ..

Monday of Holy Week: Forty First Station: Judas conspires with the authorities to hand Jesus over to them. He looked for a way to betray him.

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“We adore you, O Christ etc.

Scripture Reading

Mark Chapter 14 verses 10 to 11

Palm Sunday Year B

Reflection.

The word betray can provoke some very strong feelings. It can also be applied to many different situations. What can be betrayed? Our feelings, our friends, our family, our country and our God. The reasons for betrayal can be many and often it is probably to save our own skin. But if this is the case do we actually save it? For a while possibly? I think it is easy to offer conjecture as to why Judas did what he did. Our Lord knew it was going to happen and accepted it because, as we can say, it was part of the plan.

I feel sorry for Judas because he later saw no way back.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory be. I love you, Jesus.....

Tuesday of Holy Week: Forty Second Station: Jesus shows his love for us all by going on his knees and washes the feet of his disciples, including Judas'.

“We adore you, O Christ etc,

Scripture Reading

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John Chapter 13 verses 6 to 15

Mass of the Lord's Supper (Holy Thursday)

Reflection

Are we impetuous like Peter and put obstacles in the way of experiencing something really good. Peter had seen the Lord wash the feet of some of the other disciples. They didn't object. Perhaps Peter was overthinking it. He didn't see the example that our Lord was giving. People can be squeamish or ticklish about the subject of their own feet or the feet of others. Our Lord showed the depths (or perhaps the height) of his love by doing this. He went on to do something more amazing when he gave his life for us.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory be. I love you, Jesus....

Wednesday of Holy Week: Forty Third Station: Jesus said, 'I have longed to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.'

"We adore you, O Christ etc.

Scripture Reading

Luke Chapter 22 verses 14 to 20

Palm Sunday Year C

Reflection

In this gospel account we have two cups. Jesus takes a cup, then he takes some bread, then he takes another cup. He is not being greedy or gregarious.

Our Lord is taking the old way and replacing it with the New Way. Each time we come to Mass our Lord speaks the same words and does the same actions through the priest. It is not a copy but the one off sacrifice of Christ. The Eucharist is the source and the summit. We receive the True Body and Blood of Christ who is food for our journey. Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory be. I love you, Jesus.....,

Thursday of Holy Week: Forty Fourth Station: His sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood.

Scripture Reading

Luke Chapter 22 verses 39 to 46

Palm Sunday Year C

Reflection

Our Lord is praying to his Father and the way in which St. Luke describes this event cannot be more vivid. It demonstrates the human nature of our Lord whose sweat appears like great

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drops of blood. Not drops of blood but **great** drops of blood. It is easy for us to imagine what must be going through Jesus' mind. He sees the climax of a battle that will look like defeat. That will look like he has failed his Father. He can see the ridicule. He can see the scourging; his flesh being torn from him. He can see the end result. An angel comes to him to give him strength.

Our Lord prays many times in Luke's account. If anything is going to happen, he prays. We should do our best to follow his example. He didn't use formal prayers in his agony. He spoke to his Father using plain language.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory be. I love you, Jesus.....,

Friday in Holy Week : Forty Fifth Station: It is accomplished!

"We adore you, O Christ etc.

Scripture Reading

John Chapter 19 verses 17 to 46

Good Friday: The Passion of our Lord

Reflection

Today our Lord takes charge and completes his final act on the cross. Everything the cross stood for in the eyes of the Romans and the authorities our Lord turns them on their head. His death on the cross is a victory over death. He embraced the cross. We should embrace the cross.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory be. I love you, Jesus.....,