

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Today we begin Holy Week, the most sacred time of our liturgical year. As we gather with palms in hand, we re-enact Jesus' humble entrance into Jerusalem. Yet, the liturgy quickly shifts, inviting us into the sorrowful reading of the Passion according to Matthew. We see the dramatic contrast between the crowd's shallow, fleeting praise and the unwavering love of Christ, who goes to the cross to conquer sin and death. Palm Sunday is not just a historical commemoration; it is an invitation to examine our own wavering hearts. Do we only follow Jesus when the path is easy and popular, or do we walk with him through the difficult time?

Let us enter this week, not just to re-enact a story, but to re-live it. It is a time to walk with Christ in humility, acknowledging our need for redemption while praising him as our King. Let the palm branches we carry home be a symbol of our commitment to follow Jesus, not just in the triumphs, but in the suffering.

- **Keep the palms:** Display them in your homes as a reminder of Jesus' victory and your commitment to following him.
- **Enter the silence:** Take time this week for prayer and reflection, accompanying our Lord in his final days.
- **Participate in the Sacred Triduum:** Make the Mass of the Lord's Supper (Holy Thursday), the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday), and the Easter Vigil/Sunday a priority.

May this Holy Week be a time of deep conversion and grace for our entire parish community.

Fr. Luke