

*We Respond*

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**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** (or a hymn): Six days before the Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they carried palm branches and with a loud voice cried out: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy! O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! Who is this king of glory? He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** (Ps 21)

**ANTIPHON:** My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

**RESPONSE: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

**LECTOR:** All who see me deride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads. "He trusted in the Lord, let him save him; let him release him if this is his friend." **R.**

**LECTOR:** Many dogs have surrounded me, a band of the wicked beset me. They tear holes in my hands and my feet. I can count every one of my bones. **R.**

**LECTOR:** They divide my clothing among them. They cast lots for my robe. O Lord, do not leave me alone, my strength, make haste to help me! **R.**

**LECTOR:** I will tell of your name to my brethren and praise you where they are assembled. "You who fear the Lord give him praise; all sons of Jacob, give him glory. Revere him, Israel's sons." **R.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** (or a hymn) Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done

**TODAY'S READINGS** Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14 – 27:66

**NEXT WEEK** (Easter Sunday, Yr A) Acts 10:34, 37-43; Psalm 117; Col 3:1-4; John 20:1-9.

*Want  
to learn  
more?*

Many people would say that life has never been busier. So, how do families stay ahead of the rat race? Married couple Tim and Sue Muldoon provide some tips on how to achieve a good life balance between work and the home and how you can enjoy your family. Their book, *Reclaiming Family Time*, is available from Majellan Media for \$19.95. Further details at **03 9592 2777** or **office@majellan.org.au**

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*From hero to  
villain*



5 April 2020 Palm Sunday Year A

The 'Holy Fire' is a miracle that the Greek orthodox faithful have witnessed every year in Jerusalem on Easter Saturday since AD 810. Their patriarch enters the Holy Sepulchre after hours of prayer and preparation, while the faithful fill the church and many more crowd the square outside and surrounding streets.

All the lights are turned off. The belief is that a blue light, not lit by human hand, emanates from within Jesus's tomb, and rises from the marble slab covering the stone bed. The patriarch receives the light and brings it to the faithful. The congregation spends hours in intense prayers and silence. They wait outside until the Holy Fire is seen by everyone. This light then travels to the four corners of the world.

With Palm Sunday, we begin the Holy Week. This week of prayer and penance is for the renewal of our lives which means leaving sin behind and living as Lights with new life at Easter. The readings remind us of the entry of Jesus, on a donkey's back, into Jerusalem while people were singing "Hosanna". This was to fulfill what was prophesied by Zechariah.

"Celebrate incredibly, Daughter Zion! – Yell, Little girl Jerusalem – See, your king comes to you – honorable and victorious – humble and riding on a donkey – on a colt, the foal of a donkey" (Zechariah 9:9). But

Jesus' entry is not to a throne in a palace but to the Cross on Calvary.

Pope Francis says that Palm Sunday could be called "bitter sweet". The shouts of "Hosanna" which means "save us" will soon change into shouts, "Crucify him". But the response of Jesus to this shouting is the same. He is neither flattered on Palm Sunday nor furious on Good Friday. A week that begins with celebration and shouts of joy will then move onto another scene where the power of darkness will take charge of Him. The King of kings will be arrested, scourged, crucified and buried.

"I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness" (Jn. 12: 46). He is the King of all Kings, and yet he was born in Nazareth, a place not even mentioned in the Old Testament, and now He is walking towards Calvary, where he will be executed.

Today, we join the crowd of those who have been healed, delivered from various possessions, some even raised from the dead to life who sang "Hosanna". We too have been healed by him. May we in baptism who were immersed into Jesus' life, not leave him alone after Palm Sunday, but rather keep awake awaiting the Light.

**Manoj Kunnath CSsR**

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