

Palm Sunday 2024.

A Biblical Reflection by Fr Kevin Walsh, Sydney Australia



PREPARE:

For this time of prayer and reflection, we invite you to find a comfortable position, light a candle if you wish and become aware of your breathing. When you are ready, slowly read the scripture reading and pause when you are drawn to stop and reflection on what you have read. Write down your thought and feeling to ponder on these later.

One week from today is Easter Sunday! We will celebrate the triumph of Jesus over the final enemy ... death! It is only correct and just that if we wish to join in the victory, then we should enter into the struggle, which precedes it.

During Lent, we have been given the opportunity to reflect upon the quality of our lives in the face of the Lenten Invitation: **Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel.** To help us in our Lenten response, the Readings for the five Sundays of Lent have given us a great deal of Food for Thought, and many opportunities to reawaken our inner spirit to follow Christ more wholeheartedly. As we said at the beginning of Lent, this is our Spiritual Training time. Any athlete who is serious about staying in 'good nick' knows that if the training fades away, we don't fade away...we just get bigger in body weight and sluggish in most of our ways. The same can apply to our Spiritual life.

Lent is the perfect opportunity to put our Spiritual Fitness First as a top priority! The rest of the year is not 'holiday time' it is all about keeping in practice the lessons and guidelines that we have embraced during Lent. This will help us in a big way to keep us on track till next for the rest of the year.

Today, as we receive our Blessed Palm, and give thanks and praise to God, we are given the chance to enter into the 'spirit' of Holy Week. Why not look for some greenery in our Garden, knowing that its special significance, will see it as Blessed. Maybe like the Green Wreath that we fix to our Front doors in Advent, we could attach our palms to the front door with a red or white ribbon!

We can take this opportunity to walk with Jesus through this week in all its moods and complexities, and to finally rejoice in the Father's glory when 'life' was re breathed into Jesus His Son: that 'new life' which is offered to everyone, is celebrated on Easter Sunday, and is refreshed in us.

Today is decision time: are we tempted to use the Easter 'Break' as time out for a Getaway Holiday? Will it be an opportunity for doing maintenance to our Home? Will it be a temptation to work extra hours, so as we can accumulate an extra Easter bonus? Can it be a time for us to gather our family for a little spiritual sharing around your sacred space in your house to reflect on the meaning of these three special days? Could it be the opportunity to tune in to the online Easter Ceremonies on U-Tube if you are unable to make it to the local Parish Community?

Let us walk together as the Living Body of Christ through this most important week of the year. Are you ready? Let's go!

