

Dear Brothers and Sisters



Holy Week begins for us today with the celebration of Palm Sunday. Jesus enters triumphantly into Jerusalem, as great crowds spread their cloaks on the road, while others were cutting branches from trees and spreading them in his path.

But he knows that within just a few short days the cries of "Hosanna" will turn to shouts of "Crucify him!" He is not fooled by the adoration and the acclamation of the multitude. In fact, he does not enter the city as the king they are acclaiming him to be, but rather on a colt, a humble donkey.

The colt, the Gospel tells us, is tied up. Jesus sends his disciples to untie it, and bring it to him. They do not ask permission of the owner, they do as they are told: "And if anyone asks you what you are doing, tell them 'The Master needs it'."

This colt is an image of each one of us.

Our shackles can take many forms: fears, anxieties, neuroses, old hurts, disappointments, uncertainties, and doubts.

They can take the form of second-guessing oneself,

The niggling feeling that something is missing in life,

A false bravado, putting on a brave face, a stiff upper lip,

When the truth is far different.

We have been bound in Adam, bound by the shackles of sin. These bonds impede us from moving towards Jerusalem, towards Calvary, towards the Cross. One who has not been untied will never be able to move in such a direction. On the contrary, the opposite is true: they will always flee from the Cross.

But there is one who is able to untie us. In doing so he will enter Jerusalem, and go to Calvary, reversing the direction in which humanity is travelling.

Holy Week opens a road, a way, for us to experience the Paschal Triduum.

Christ comes to untie each of us, and invites us to accompany him to the upper room and the Last Supper on Holy Thursday, to Calvary and the crucifixion on Good Friday, to the Easter Vigil of Holy Saturday and the Resurrection of Easter Sunday. We will live these events not as historic re-enactments, but as sacramental realities in which God comes to do in us that which we are unable to do for ourselves.

Being untied by Him, we can kiss our Cross on Good Friday, and thank God for it. We can do this because we know that the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday await us, the Resurrection of Christ.

Fr. Sean