

Palm Sunday (A)

13<sup>th</sup> April 2014

'Confession in Holy Week'

Is 50: *for my part I made no resistance, neither did I turn away*

Ps 21: *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

Phil 2: *He was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross*

Mt 26–27 Passion according to Matthew.

Holy Week is now upon us! It's a late Easter this year, but even so, it may be that Holy Week has still crept up on you — and suddenly we are cast into the turmoil with Jesus in the last days of His ministry, in Jerusalem: beginning with His triumphant entry to shouts of *Hosanna*; then, days of increasing tension with the authorities; the Last-Supper Passover celebration with the apostles, in which He institutes the Blessed Sacrament of His presence with us in the Mass; and then the rapid descent into the agony of the arrest, trial, Way of the Cross, and Crucifixion; finally, the long, quiet wait till the Father brings Our Lord back from the dead in the dark of Easter night. The week ahead is an unmissable week which as Catholics we should all be ready to give to the Lord, in its fullness. If you've before never chosen to attend the whole of the Triduum — Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday night — then think of doing so this year: the three make most sense when they are experienced as a sequence. **8pm Thursday; 3pm Friday; 9pm Saturday** — give to the Lord this sacred time, to enter

completely into His life-giving death and resurrection. He died for you! — it's only right to give Him your all in Holy Week.

The best way to prepare yourselves for a true keeping of Holy Week, of course, is to receive the forgiveness of your sins, as Bishop John said last week. So, if you've not yet been to Confession this Lent, then you should make a special effort to do so this week. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a treasure of mercy; the loving and forgiving heart of Jesus, who died on this Cross saying those very words, "Father, forgive them ...". Even if it's been a long time since your last Confession — *especially* if it's been a long time since your last Confession! — come this week to receive the guaranteed forgiveness that flows from this Sacrament. There is no other way to be freed of grave sins; and it is good Catholic practice to confess also all the lesser (venial) sins you can remember. All the many time for Confession this week are listed in the Newsletter. The best opportunity will be at the **Services of Reconciliation, Monday 11.30am or 7.30pm**. First, we will be able to prepare together, prayerfully, in a rite of prayer and reflection; and then to make our individual Confession, when a number of different priests will be available. Please, come and live up to your Catholic faith in this regard (Monday 11.30/7.30): do not disregard the Lord's insistent call to you to be forgiven your sins: you cannot make Holy Week a more holy experience than by bathing in the mercy of Jesus, His saving, healing blood, poured out on the Cross out of love for you.