

## **PALM SUNDAY** **April 5, 2020**

*Article by Fr. Ben Marino*

This week we call Holy Week, Christians all over the world (although Masses and services are all cancelled due to Covid 19) celebrate the greatest story ever told in the history of humankind. The week begins on Palm Sunday (Passion) Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> and ends on Easter Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.

This week, we re-enact the tumultuous events of Christ's last week in human life, beginning with the triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and continuing with the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday; the arrest trial and crucifixion of our Lord on Good Friday and climaxing with the joyous celebration of the Resurrection of Christ at the Easter Vigil and Easter Day.

Some might think that the story we hear in our readings during this week is a horror story or a story of suffering. That is probably true. Or an endurance story? At least partly so. It is these and so much more.

It is a story of heroism, cowardice, greed, power gone badly, and so forth. But above all, it is a love story. It is the greatest love story that the world has ever known or will ever know. It is God's love story. It is our love story.

*"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son. No greater love has anyone than to lay down his life for his friends. God is love."*

Jesus goes to his death for no other reason than love. Love drives the universe. It is still the most powerful force that humanity has ever discovered. We are made for love. Without love, we are nothing. No matter who we are, what we own, how many people we have under our authority, if we have no love, we are nothing.

Jesus hanging on the Cross is the divine song. This is a song without words. Words were too weak, too inadequate to bring home the love message. We needed to see love itself loving us. It's too easy to say, "I love you." Those words aren't always true, and when they are not true, they are the cruelest words a person can speak. However, when we see love, when we gaze at love loving us, when we see the magnitude and the length to which love has gone for our sake, then there is a chance we will know love.

This Holy Week, we will once again hear the love story of God told to us through our liturgies and services in the social media. May we open our needy and love-starved hearts to take in the nourishing images that will be placed before us. May we create the space needed to hear and see the love of God, made flesh in Jesus Christ, the One who still loves us to death.