

## **PALM SUNDAY CELEBRATION – IN FAMILIES 2020**



*As this year the Church cannot celebrate the mystery of our Salvation in full way in parish communities because of the Corona Virus Pandemic and Government restrictions of movements to prevent the spreading of the virus, we have to find a new way of celebration as Christian Community and Christian Families.*

*The below is the proposition of the celebration of the **PALM SUNDAY** – the Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem, before his Passion, Death and Resurrection from the Death in Families. If there is a lonely neighbour – invite - him/her to pray together*

**The celebration is on: 5<sup>th</sup> April 2020.**

### **Preparations:**

The Family appoints a leader or the Father or Mother in the family.

Prepare books, those who will read, palms or little tree branches, all around a table covered with white cloth in the home on which are placed: cross, candles and the Bible.

First, All gather outside of the house – around the entrance gate. The Family members are having in their hands the branches of palms or other branches of the tree. Special attention is done to the youth and children who should actively participate in the celebration, praising the Lord Jesus.

***All gathered start the song: .....***

### ***The presider starts:***

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

**P.** Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the world.

**All.** Thanks be to God.

**P.** Dear members of our Family. We have gathered together in our family home to celebrate the Palm Sunday, because of the Corona Virus that is infecting many people of our Country and of the World – for protection ourselves and to pray for those who are already sick, for those who care for them, for the stopping of the virus in the world. This gives us, as well opportunity to become the small Church gathered together in prayer, listening to Word of God and to show love and care for each other.

Since the beginning of Lent until now we have prepared our hearts by penance and charitable works. Together we gather together as our Family, to herald with the whole Church the beginning of the celebration of our Lord's paschal mystery, that is to say, of his Passion and Resurrection. For it was to accomplish this mystery that he entered his own city of Jerusalem. Therefore, with all faith and devotion, let us commemorate the Lord's entry into the city for our Salvation, following in his footsteps, so that being made by his grace the partakers of his cross, we may have a share also in his Resurrection and his life.

***After this or similar introduction the presider say the prayer of blessing of the branches and all present: (use the 2<sup>nd</sup> choice prayer – adapted). All hold the branches raised high.***

### **Presider:**

Increase the faith of us all present here, who place our hope in you, O God, and graciously hear the prayers of those who call on you; that we who today hold high these branches to welcome Christ in his triumph, may bear fruit for you by good works accomplished in him. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

***The suitable song is sung by all..... for a moment.***

***Now, someone else from the Family, read the Gospel about the Entrance of Jesus to Jerusalem.***

## **At The Procession With Palms – Gospel – Matthew 21:1-11**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.**

.....

### **The Gospel of the Lord**

*Now, the procession starts with palms raised high to place where the family will continue their prayers of Palm Sunday.*

**Presider:** Dear members of our Family, like the crowds who acclaimed Jesus in Jerusalem, let us go together with joy in our hearts, praising of our Lord and Saviour.

*Someone starts the Chorus..... and procession starts. The Presider, holding the palm branch leads the procession.*

*When all reach the meeting room, the presider says the following prayer:*

### **Presider:**

God our Father, we thank you for sending your Son Jesus Christ and paving the way for our lives to be set free through Jesus' death on the cross. Thank you for what this day stands for - the beginning of Holy Week, the start of the journey towards the power of the cross, the victory of the Resurrection, and the rich truth that Jesus truly is our King of Kings. Embrace our whole family with your Spirit and open our hearts to listen to your Word. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

*Now all sit down and listen to readings. The chosen readers start the readings. After each reading can be short moment of quiet reflection, and then next reading...*

### **1st Reading Isaiah 50:4-7**

**A reading from the Book of Isaiah**

.....

The Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

### **Responsorial Psalm – Psalms 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24**

**R.** My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

### **2nd Reading – Philippians 2:6-11**

**A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to Philippians.**

.....

The Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

### **Verse Before The Gospel – Philippians 2:8-9**

**Glory and praise to you, O Christ.**

Christ became obedient to the point of death,  
even death on a cross.

Because of this, God greatly exalted him  
and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.

**Glory and praise to you, O Christ.**

*The Passion of Jesus, can be read if possible in the way that it is divided between 3 readers: 1. as Narrator, 2. takes the words of 1 or more persons speaking and 3. words of Jesus.*

### **Gospel – Matthew 26:14-27:66**

#### **THE PASSION of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.**

.....

*Now, everyone can sit down for a moment of reflection on the Passion of Christ. Everyone can share: which words you heard touched your heart, maybe spoke the message to you, asked you for action? The family share their experiences of the Word of God proclaimed to them.*

*When reflection is completed, all stand up to profess the faith using the “Apostles’ Creed”*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth; I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

*Then the Presider initiate the **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL:***

#### **PRESIDER:**

Let us pray together, as a family that during this Holy Week we may gather abundantly the fruits of Jesus’ suffering and death, and thus get ready to share in the joy of his resurrection:

#### **Other family members:**

1. We pray you, Lord, for all people in temptation; let them remember your sweat of blood at Gethsemane; help all of us to overcome temptation with prayer. Lord Hear us.

**All. Lord, hear our prayer and forgive our sins.**

2. We pray you, Lord, who had experience of the suffering and loneliness in your passion, we present to you all those who are suffering because of the corona virus, we pray for those who passed away, receive them into your Kingdom, give strenght and hope to those care for the sick, give wisdom to scientists to discover medicine and all of us, have in your protection and love. Lord hear us.

**All. Lord, hear our prayer and forgive our sins.**

3. We pray for all those who deny having known you as Peter did; help them and help us all to be faithful witnesses of your love to all people. Lord Hear us.

**All. Lord, hear our prayer and forgive our sins.**

4. We pray for those unjustly condemned; let them remember how unjustly you were condemned by Pilate. Help us to bear false accusations; help us not to judge our neighbours; to be always merciful in our judgment. Lord hear us.

**All. Lord, hear our prayer and forgive our sins.**

5. You forgave generously the sins of the good thief and offered him heaven rightaway; help all people fallen into sin to trust in your generosity and forgiveness and come back to you through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Lord hear us.

**All. Lord, hear our prayer and forgive our sins.**

6. We pray for all the young people around the world, who today suppose to celebrate the World Youth Day with Holy Father Francis in Rome, but because of the virus they are not able to gather together to witness to Jesus; fill Pope Francis and all the Bishops and priests, with Holy Spirit, good health and strength to guide the Church in times of trial. Lord hear us.

**All. Lord, hear our prayer and forgive our sins.**

7. We pray for our own family and other families in our area, that strengthen by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we will share your love, forgiveness, and mercy with all our neighbours and build up the Kingdom of God in our Community. Lord Hear us.

**All. Lord, hear our prayer and forgive our sins.**

8. Now anyone can express the petition and thanksgiving.... Lord Hear us.

**All. Lord, hear our prayer and forgive our sins.**

**Presider:**

Father in heaven, your beloved Son Jesus suffered and died to save us. Help us to join him in his sufferings throughout our life, and to die with him and in his friendship in his resurrection and in his glory with you. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

**Presider:**

We shall conclude our family prayer by devoutly reciting the prayer which Jesus taught us, promising him in a special way that we shall forgive all those who have offended us in any way. Let us recite slowly and devoutly:

***Our Father in heaven...***

**Closing prayer:**

**Presider:**

Look we pray, O Lord, on this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ did not hesitate to be delivered into the hands of the wicked and submit to the agony of the Cross. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**All: Amen.**

**All Pray together the final blessing:**

The Lord Bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. *(making the sign of the Cross, continue)*. In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Thanks be to God,  
now and for ever.**

