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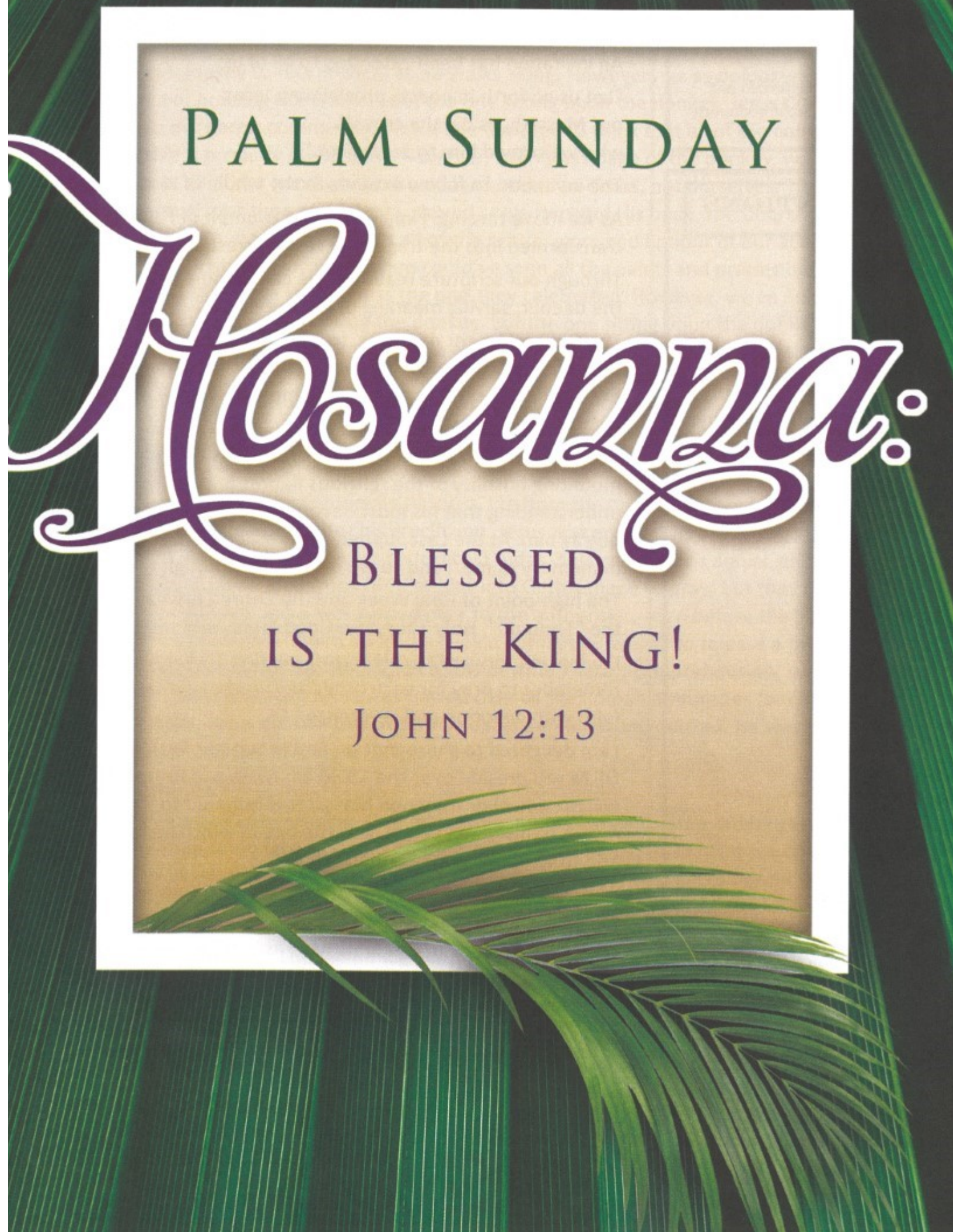
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PALM SUNDAY

Hosanna:

BLESSED
 IS THE KING!
 JOHN 12:13



St. Paul the Apostle Church
Maltese-Canadian
Community Parish
 3224 Dundas Street West,
 Toronto, Ontario M6P 2A3

416-767-7054

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 www.stpaultheapostleto.archtoronto.org

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, April 1

5:30pm

- +Mary & Mark Baylis

Sunday, April 2

9:00am

- +Ricardo Solis, Gladys Horedya & Fausto Orellano

10:30am

- +Helen Ann Ellul
- +Rita Zammit
- +Joseph & Carmen Gové
- +Joseph Muscat
- +Joseph Farrugia
- +Carmnu Vella

12:00 noon

- Missa Pro Populo

Monday, April 3

- +Doris Micallef

Tuesday, April 4

- +Deceased members of the Camilleri Family

Wednesday, April 5

- Our Lady of the Immigrant Perpetual Mass
- +Nina Schembri

Thursday, April 6

Holy Thursday

Friday, April 7

Good Friday

From the Desk of Fr. Roy...

As Holy Week begins, the church invites us to follow the Lord more closely. Palm Sunday is a distinct call to follow the Lord more closely. The liturgy opens with the description of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

An invitation has been extended to all of us:

"Let us go forth in peace, proclaiming Jesus our Messiah, as did the crowds who welcomed him to Jerusalem."

The invitation to follow extends to the whole of Holy Week.

As we move through Holy Week, the triumph of Palm Sunday is transformed into the tragedy of Jesus' arrest, trial and crucifixion.

Through our scripture readings, we can attain a better perspective on the deeper, salvific meaning of these events.

The Old Testament passages, from Isaiah's "servant songs," narrate the story of God's suffering servant who is wrongfully punished and executed. This servant was the example to which Christians could comprehend Jesus' death.

The Gospels portray the last days of Jesus as being filled with the mounting hostility of the religious figures and the remarkable understanding that his most devoted disciples would deny and betray him. At the Last Supper, Jesus asked His disciples to "Do this in memory of me." and so we have down through the centuries.

The high-point of Holy Week and the Entire Christian Year is found in the "Triduum", Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil.

I'm looking forward to celebrating my first Triduum with you. Let's remember to pray for each other and work together to celebrate our faith with devotion and reverence.

I am delighted to share that on Easter Sunday, Fr. Jimmy Zammit, OF.M will preside over the 10:30 am Mass and Bishop Robert Kasun will preside over the noon Mass. I feel honored to have Fr. Jimmy return to his home parish, and the one in which he had been pastor, and to welcome our regional bishop.

It should be noted that the morning Mass on Tuesday, April 4th will take place at **9:00 am** because of my attendance of the Chrism Mass, where I will renew my commitment as a priest and bring back the sacred oils used for the celebration of baptism, confirmation and anointing of the sick.

Saturday's Seder Meal had an excellent outcome. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our Jewish heritage and to meet the parishioners of St. Paul's.

I wish to congratulate the social committee for their hard work, as well as express my gratitude for the delicious food that was served with class and thank the Portelli host family, along with the leader, Godwin Darmanin, and the music director, Rita Apalit. It was an exquisite evening.

It is an immense privilege to be the administrator of the parish. I am profoundly grateful for your prayers and continuous help.



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION Today marks the beginning of Holy Week, the most sacred week in the entire liturgical calendar of the church. It opens with the celebration of Palm (Passion) Sunday where Jesus triumphantly enters Jerusalem riding a donkey amidst the waving palm branches. We can glean a great insight into true stewardship when we reflect on this event through the lens of the donkey which is a metaphor for our lives. From the donkey's perspective, he sees a great crowd ready to welcome him into Jerusalem. He hears the singing of praises and sees them laying their coats and branches on his path. It would be easy for the donkey to feel prideful as he walks along. However, we as onlookers can clearly see that the crowds are not praising the donkey, but the one sitting upon the donkey, Jesus Christ. As stewards offering ourselves to our parish community, we can be tempted to think that all of the compliments, praises and thanks we receive is properly owed to us. However, from this image of the donkey, we should strive to humbly recognize that all of our good works should lead others to Christ, not ourselves. The donkey served Christ just as we, through our time and talents, should serve Him and His body, the Church. This Palm Sunday let us ask ourselves, do we fully direct all of the praise, glory and honour of our actions to Jesus? The donkey on which Christ rode into Jerusalem could've seen all the palms and praises being sung around him and been tempted to believe that he was the one they celebrated. However, we as onlookers can clearly see that the crowds are not praising the donkey, but the one sitting upon the donkey, Jesus Christ. This Palm Sunday let us learn from this image and ask ourselves, do we fully direct all of the praise, glory and honour of our actions to Jesus?

Taken from excerpts from the Archdiocese of Toronto website.

Gospel Summary

Each year on this Sunday we follow the events of Jesus' life from the time he entered Jerusalem until the point where he was laid in the tomb after his crucifixion. Jesus first entered Jerusalem riding a donkey amid waving palm leaves. It was in Jerusalem that he foretold Judas' betrayal, Peter's denial, and established the Eucharist at the Passover meal. Jesus took his disciples into Gethsemane to pray, but they could not stay awake with him. In the garden, Jesus was turned over to the authorities, tried before the Sanhedrin, brought to Pilate, and sentenced to death. When offered a choice during the festival to release a prisoner, the people chose the release of Barabbas. Their choice was beyond Pilate's comprehension, so he symbolically washed his hands of the whole deal. Jesus was turned over to the Roman authorities for crucifixion and mocked by them. Finally, Jesus died on the cross. The earth darkened and quaked. He was prepared quickly for burial and laid in the tomb.

Reflection for Families

There is much to reflect on in this reading. One interesting note, however, is the different responses Judas and Peter had when they came face to face with their rejection of Christ. After his three denials, Peter "wept bitterly." These tears of regret led the way to reconciliation when Peter first encountered the risen Christ. Judas, on the other hand, knew what he did was wrong, but he couldn't face the hopelessness his actions brought. To relieve the pain of what he had done, Judas took his own life. Some days it is difficult (even beyond measure) to be a parent. The lesson we learn today is that reconciliation and healing bring us long-term joy instead of living in the harsh bitterness of despair.

Bringing the Gospel Into Your Family

Either in your parish or some outside setting, pray the Stations of the Cross. Many booklets are available (ask at your parish or local religious bookstore) for families to follow the Passion of Jesus. If possible, allow the children to lead the prayer at some of the stations.

Discussion Starters

1. The part of Jesus' Passion that means the most to me (and why) is . . .
2. I know how Peter felt. One time I knew what the right thing was to do, but was afraid to do it. I remember feeling . . .
3. One incident of reconciliation I remember that brought about significant healing was ...

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APRIL 2, 2023

PALM SUNDAY - YEAR A