



# Diocese of Kroonstad

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## **PALM SUNDAY (PASSION) SUNDAY 2020 WITH A DIFFERENCE!**

Dear Priests, Deacons, Brothers and Sisters

As we celebrate Palm Sunday with a difference in the 'DOMESTIC CHURCH' of the family home we are not alone but united in Spirit as the Church of the Diocese of Kroonstad, through the love and peace of the Holy Spirit.

I encourage the Priests of the Diocese to celebrate the Palm Sunday Mass alone and for the intention of the people of your Parish Communities. I encourage the families to gather together in the family room and that one member of the family leads in prayer and does the readings of Palm Sunday and the Gospel of the Passion of the Lord. Many of our families have 'Missale Oa Bakriste' Selema A. Or the Buka 'Beke E Halalelang.

As the Church celebrates Palm Sunday we begin Holy Week. The week that celebrates God's great love for us through Jesus suffering, death and resurrection. Palm Sunday is also known as Passion Sunday as Jesus enters Jerusalem to begin his journey to the cross of Calvary. Jesus enters Jerusalem and is welcomed by the people with great joy and singing 'Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the Highest Heaven'.

What we need to notice is the way Jesus comes as King. Riding on a donkey. He comes as a humble king. It is this humble king and suffering servant that we need to keep our eyes on in this Holy Week. In a few days' time the voices of the people who rejoice and praise Jesus will change. The call becomes as Jesus stands before Pilot 'Crucify him, Crucify him'.

As followers of Jesus we have to take an active part in this Holy Week and walk with Jesus in his suffering and death, so to rise with him with joy at Easter. The prophet Isaiah tells us in first reading of Jesus the suffering servant who came to speak words of comfort and hope to us on our journey of faith. How we need to be comforted with a message of hope as we face the Corona Virus.

What we see through Jesus suffering is his total obedience and trust in God his Father. It is the trust we all must have, that God will bring his healing love to the world at this very difficult time. St Paul to the Philippians says, that through Jesus death and resurrection he will be lifted up high. Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess Jesus Christ as Lord. The death of Jesus was not the end. The victory is in his Resurrection. Our victory too as disciples of Jesus.

The Gospel of Jesus Passion shows us what it cost for our salvation. This Holy Week we have to think about the times we have hurt God by our sins and ask for forgiveness. To do this we must be humble like Jesus. Let the love and mercy of God give us the joy of been forgiven by God for our sins.

In this Holy Week as we have to stay at home in the Lockdown of our country let us read the Gospel of Jesus Passion. Let us truly think about what Jesus suffering, death and resurrection mean in our Christian lives. Let us live this Holy Week in the company of Mary the Mother of God at the foot of the cross. May we die to our sins so as to rise with Jesus at Easter full of joy. I keep you all God's faithful people of the Diocese of Kroonstad in prayer. Stay home. Keep Safe!

YOURS SINCERELY IN CHRIST,

BISHOP PETER HOLIDAY