

Dear Padre,

How should we dispose of last year's palms?

Every year on Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday), palm branches are handed out and blessed as a powerful reminder of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

We keep palm branches for two reasons. First, they symbolize our desire to accompany Christ through Holy Week. Second, they symbolize Jesus' desire to enter our homes and accompany us on our journey as we face our own Good Fridays. Taking the palms home and placing them behind a crucifix or holy picture is a powerful reminder of that.

Many parishes ask their members to bring the palm branches they received the previous year to church on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. These

branches are burned to make the ashes that are distributed on Ash Wednesday. After a time, palm branches get brittle and break easily, so if your church doesn't collect them, it's OK to break the palms up and burn them yourself.

The number of palm branches we have in our homes isn't important. Palms and other articles of devotion such as medals and scapulars don't

bring good luck or wealth, and we shouldn't try to use them in that way. We should use them to remind us of the goodness of God and the salvation Christ brings us.

Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSSR
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Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE/ANTHONY D. ALONZO



A WORD FROM Pope Francis

What is most amazing about the Lord and his Passover? It is the fact that he achieves glory through humiliation. He triumphs by accepting suffering and death, things that we, in our quest for admiration and success, would rather avoid. Jesus, as St. Paul tells us, "emptied himself...he humbled himself."

PALM SUNDAY HOMILY, MARCH 28, 2021



Our Parish Community

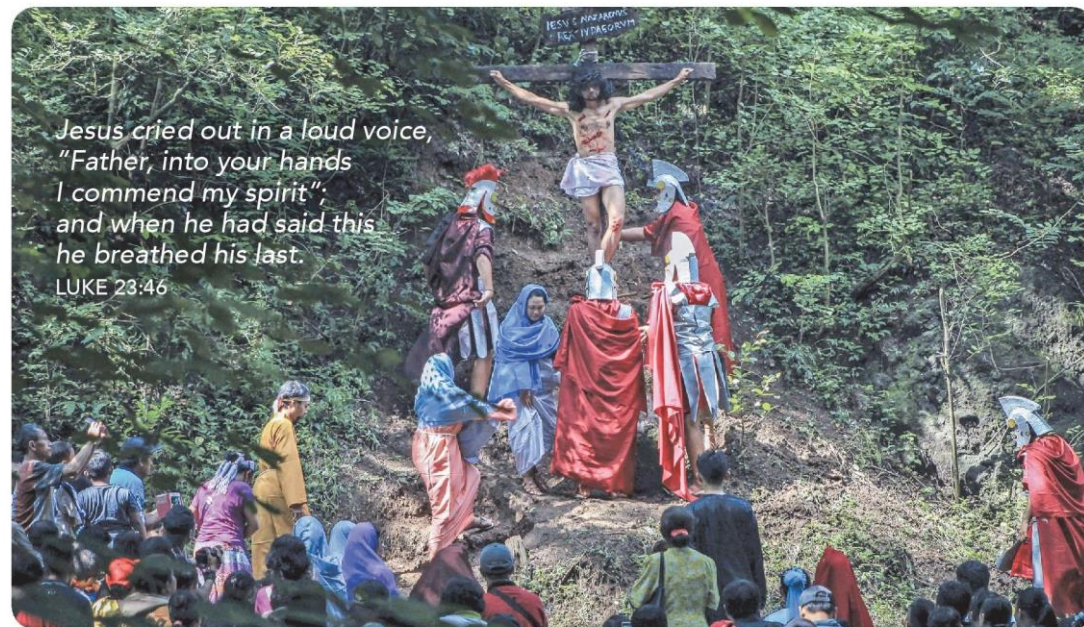
April 10, 2022

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion (C)

Lk 19:28-40

Is 50:4-7 / Phil 2:6-11

Lk 22:14-23:56 or Lk 23:1-49



Jesus cried out in a loud voice,
"Father, into your hands
I commend my spirit";
and when he had said this
he breathed his last.

LUKE 23:46

He Cannot Save Himself

Some of us might wonder, as did many of the bystanders on the way to Calvary, why Jesus allowed matters to reach the point they did. We might ask: He saved others. Why didn't he save himself? Jesus certainly had the power. He demonstrated it often as he traveled the villages and countryside of Israel. Through the centuries, theologians have turned that question over and over, upside down and inside out. Hadn't he done enough to reveal his identity?

Every answer offered has thrown a bit of light on the question. Still, no answer has adequately resolved the issue. The question of Jesus' suffering and death is a mystery of our faith. Holy Week offers us an opportunity to reflect on this mystery, to discover something that might deepen that faith and transform our lives—if only a bit.

For example, the goal of Jesus' ministry was the establishment of the reign of God. Everything he said and did pointed to this goal. He never faltered, never backed down in the face of opposition. He was steadfast in his commitment to what he believed was God's will for him, regardless of the price he might have to pay. And pay a tremendous price he did. Jesus' faithfulness to God's will is a model for us. We have responsibilities, some of which might make significant demands of us. Do we hold fast, or do we look for a way out? Holy Week calls us to follow him in his commitment.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ✦ We may not be asked to die for our principles, but we are asked to live for them.
- ✦ Pray for the strength to be faithful.