

Reflection on the Gospel of Mark 14:1-15:47
PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
-ASIA-

Today's celebration of the Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord is far from usual. Before, you could see palms in various designs and sizes outside the Church. The faithful have flocked to participate to enter and prepare themselves for the Holy week, singing "Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest" in procession, waving palms, entering the Church. But due to Covid19 pandemic, restrictions and strict protocols are implemented; Churches are empty and Palm Sunday's celebration is crowd-less. We, the world, are already more than a year in agony brought by the Covid19. We grieve for the loss of many like: family, relatives, friends, colleagues, and health workers, etc. It caused us much anxiety, fear and sadness... "Seems unending" vaccines have arrived yet the number of victims surge daily. The pain aches continuously...and we all cry "when it will be over?"

The Gospel of Mark, of the Lord's passion reminds all of us that we are not alone, that our sorrows and sufferings are not strange to our Lord Jesus Christ as he himself cried out "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (cf. Mk.14:34). In our distress and feeling of abandonment, we may experience the mysterious loving presence of God in that pain and "seems" feeling of absence. And that consolation be our hope in this trying time and leads us to discover the beauty of life amidst the ugly and fearsome face of death.

Despite the threat of Covid19, it has taught us that we are ONE humanity and one big family.

Jesus emptied himself – suffered, crucified and died for our sake, for the love he has for God the Father and the entire humanity. He showed us that true love seeks always the good of others even if it causes your very life. And the one who truly loves serves.

We might be economically trench but this time of pandemic heightens our sensitivity to the needs of the others, acts of heroism concretely visible to the care and compassion of front liners and leaders serving the most vulnerable and needy.

Jesus served and loved us despite all our iniquities and infidelities. He embraced our brokenness and forgives our sinfulness. And as we all cry for God's healing particularly for those afflicted of Covid19 and plea for the end of pandemic in the world, may we learn to abandon and entrust to God all our cares like Jesus did. To let Him be in control of everything, a God who loves and wants nothing but the best for all of us.