

PALM SUNDAY YEAR C 2022.

THE COMMOTION IN THE STREETS/MARKET.

People in Kenya are preparing for General Elections August 9th to get their chosen representatives in political seats.

The Candidates are criss-crossing around the country trying to sell their political ideologies.

They stop in different towns and villages causing commotion and even hostile demonstrations in some areas. Their followers are busy preparing the way by planting banana tree trunks and waving the branches as these candidates pass by.

The people sing supporting songs to almost every candidate who comes by obviously trying to get kick backs.

Today on Palm Sunday we too are being treated to the entry into one of the great cities, by one of the greatest Candidates of our Salvation...the person of Jesus Christ. He didn't enter as a ***superstar (with lights flashing), or a Texas cowboy on horse-back, or land in a chopper like the Kenyan presidential candidate, or pull up in a big limousine car...He entered with humility riding on a donkey.*** The disciples caused a lot of commotion in spite of his humility by throwing their cloaks on the donkey and waving palms like flags for him singing, rejoicing and praising God. (Lk.19-38 ***Blessed is he who comes as king....***)

Jesus acknowledges their gestures and rebuked the Pharisees who wanted them to be silent ****I tell you if they were to remain silent the stones will cry out* (Lk.19.39).***

It is so impressive in some parts of Kenya on Palm Sunday when most of the public transportation proudly display their faith by hanging palms to decorate and wave from their vehicles. We have now had five weeks to prepare for our great Holy Week which consists of **Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday.**

How have you prepared for Holy Week?

And how do you prepare for Jesus to enter your life each day?

How do you prepare for **Mass, the readings, and Communion as Jesus enters your heart?**

Jesus prepared to enter into Jerusalem very much aware of what awaited him in the following days.

Some of the people in the crowd will change their melody from **Hosanna to crucify him, crucify him...and even His close followers will abandon Him... *Can't you keep watch with me even for an hour! One follower will betray him...and another will deny Him in His hour of need.**

In spite of all these challenges he entered into his suffering with ***courage, determination, and confidence out of Love for humanity. No one has greater love like this than to lay his life***

down for the sake of his friends. He did it for you and me. Are you going to give yourself to Him (who gave Himself for you?)

We all have a Jerusalem ahead of us in one way or another in our lives: **illness, problems, challenges, life-style changes, uncertainty ahead of us, conflict in our families, struggles at work, and even in our different vocations. All of these cause anxiety.**

We are betrayed by those whom we trust. Jesus today shows us how to handle our Jerusalem. We must move forward. We are not alone, as Jesus is there before us, He **understands** us, ***He will be there for us...He was, He is, and He will be with us. BEHOLD I WILL BE WITH YOU TILL THE END OF TIME.***
(Fruitful Holy Week to All!)