



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

Cathedral of the Honolulu Diocese • Founded 1843 • National Historic Register

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

March 24, 2024

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

“From Pain to Glory!”

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

We begin this Sunday with the Solemn Celebrations of Holy Week. We have the blessing of palms at the beginning of Mass to commemorate Jesus' triumphant entry to Jerusalem. We also listen to the Gospel of the Lord's Passion in the Liturgy of the Word. This is why we call this day Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion. From Thursday to Sunday, we have the Easter Triduum, highlighting all the celebrations we have in our Christian and Catholic faith. Three days of intense prayer, sacrifice, and celebration of Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection, known as the Paschal Mystery. As much as you can, I encourage you to participate in our Solemn Liturgies and journey with Jesus from His Pain to His Glory. His love and mercy paved the way to the greatest pain any person can experience. His power and trust in the hands of His Father paved the way to His Resurrection.

Aside from the religious practices or disciplines that we do during the Holy Week, like fasting and abstinence, it is very important to take time for ourselves to be with the Lord. It is a time to cherish the great act of love of Jesus, who suffered and died for our sins. Cherishing this love calls each one of us to examine ourselves on matters of faith and life. How are we in our relationship with our Lord and among our brothers and sisters? How can we carry out the Gospel values of compassion, truth, justice, and peace that would evoke joy in our hearts in our day-to-day lives? How are we identifying ourselves as Disciples of Christ?

Let us spend this Holy Week in the spirit of experiencing what Jesus went through. It may be difficult for us to attend due to work demands, but I know that sacrificing our time for the Lord is worth it. Not only do we get a break from our daily chores, but we can also have time for ourselves with the Lord, our families, and our Ohana at Church.

These are the Solemn Days of our Year. May they bring goodness and transformation not only to ourselves but also to the world we live in. May we embrace the trials that we face, especially during these difficult times, like our Lord, who carried the heavy cross to Calvary.

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual