



HOMILY by Father Robbie Low

Palm Sunday Year B

Coming home

Readings: Isaiah 50: 4-7, Ps 21, Philippians 2: 6-11, Mark 14: 1 – 15: 47

Long Gospel. Short Homily.

In just about two hours from now, in a little church a few miles up country from here, I shall stand beside one of my oldest and dearest friends, place my hand on his shoulder and pray as he makes the promises and is received into the Catholic Church.

We have known each other forty years. We set out together to serve the Lord Jesus Christ and trained together for the Anglican ministry. For both of us, though I have been 'home' a dozen years now, it has been a considerable journey and one that, in our lighter moments, we may charitably call 'a long way round'.

Like all converts, John, like the rest of us, will come with a sense of excitement, an extraordinary feeling of relief and a quiet and unshakeable joy. We converts can be a bit of a nuisance because we get very enthusiastic about things that cradle Catholics often take for granted. (One of my greatest heroes is St. Paul) But we bring with us a heart of love for Jesus and an enormous gratitude for the Church which

welcomes us home after all our wanderings. We will often wonder why it took so long for the penny to drop but are grateful for your patience and your tolerance. We will be keen to be used in any way that helps the ministry and the mission and willing to spend whatever time is left to us in so doing.

But...without the cradle Catholics, as I always say, there would be no Church for us to come home to. That is your gift to us, that and your quiet faithful witness of your forefathers down the centuries. You have guarded the Treasury of the Faith. The gift we may have to offer to you is hearts newly and deeply excited by those same treasures of the Faith that have taken us such a long and costly struggle to acquire and we bring also a little understanding of how to begin to share that treasure with those who, like us, were seeking but still a long way off.

Today, together, cradle and convert, we celebrate the triumphal entry of Our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ the Son of God into the Holy City.

Together we cast all before and get ready to accompany Him on the Way of the Cross, the way that leads to the sacrifice of Calvary, the way that leads to the salvation of the world.

Together, cradle and convert, we will invite Him to enter the capital city of our hearts, purge us of all unrighteousness and dwell there as the sovereign of our souls.

Together, one family in Christ, we will join the worship of Heaven with the Church throughout the world and throughout time, with all the angels and saints.

Together He will again entrust the mystery of His divine life into our hands in the mystery of the Mass.

And together, fed by His Body and Blood, Christ will send us, his little brothers and sisters, out into the world to bring the rest home.

Give thanks for those who have come to swell our ranks as they give thanks for us - and continue to pray for those who are travelling still.

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