

PALM SUNDAY HOMILY 2020 (See Polish translation further down)

With today's Gospel reading we find ourselves in the midst of chaos; the chaos of noise all around, the chaos of injustice, of disappointment, of shoutings, of crying, of insults, of soldiers and of criminals, and somewhere in the midst of all these we find Jesus carrying His cross, struggling in pain, but in a focused Silence. In his inner silence He is only focused on His most important call: to love God the Father and to love humanity. It is not important to Him what people say, so He doesn't enter into the vicious circle of revenge.

But Palm Sunday is not simply about Jesus' love and mercy for us: at the depth of this chaos the greatest wedding celebration is emerging; the wedding between God and humanity. At this wedding feast an everlasting Covenant is made. But first the groom has to proceed to the altar amidst insults and shouts, crying and taunting voices, falling and standing up, again and again, but He is not forced to walk down the aisle in so much agony; this is His free choice. He just has to focus on His Love for the Father and for His Bride, therefore nothing, no insults, no spittle, no ridicule, not even His own sense of power which He could use for revenge, nothing can weaken His focus from His pure love for the Father and for the Bride. He just carries on. The groom carries on with the altar on his back, and so He proceeds down the aisle of Calvary and at the end of it he puts down the altar. The groom is not welcomed at the place of the altar by His beloved Bride, because she has fled in fear. The Groom is on His own, but He still loves His Bride and makes His vow to her, not in front of the altar. He is put right on top of the altar: on the cross, and there He expresses His vow, and pledges His vow by the shedding of His blood and so He gives up everything for His beloved Bride: His own sense of dignity, His final breath and eventually His own life.

This is why this is a perfect wedding.

But who is the Bride? The Church is the Bride. It is you, it is every one of you, because of your baptism and confirmation. But you really realise this more fully, if you love others the way the Bridegroom loves the people in the chaos around Him.

Is it possible at all to love the way the Bridegroom loves? No, not for the Bride. Only the Groom can enable you by the power of the Holy Spirit to love in His way.

So next time when there is chaos at home, and in your relationship, and you argue with your loved ones or with your friend or colleague, do what the Bridegroom does on Palm Sunday: prioritise love and mercy, instead of trying to prove yourself or to take revenge or to fight for victory even if you are accused unjustly of something that you never did or say, and keep focused on love and mercy. The Bridegroom had every reason to defend himself or to have an argument, etc. but He didn't do so: He humbly let the Holy Spirit, the love of God, guide His steps, His heart and His thoughts, and so He remained focused on showing love and mercy. This is how we should also love when it is most difficult to love.