



EASTER SUNDAY ... HE IS RISEN!

Then the angel said to the women in reply, 'Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.'
(Matthew 28: 5-6)

Jesus Christ transformed our death into eternal life in the darkness of the tomb. "Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies; will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.'" (John 11:25-26)

This is the message that we as Jesus missionary disciples share with others. When we have an encounter with Jesus we are changed for the better. Do you feel there has been a change in you the more you learn about your faith? How can you share more of our faith with others?

REFLECTIONS FOR Holy Week



HOLY WEEK IS THE LAST WEEK OF LENT. THE REFLECTION AND SACRIFICES DONE DURING LENT PREPARE US FOR THIS WEEK. THERE ARE MANY LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS TAKINGS PLACE DURING THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISHES.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE GETTING READY TO RECEIVE THEIR SACRAMENTS FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME AT THE HOLY SATURDAY EASTER VIGIL IT'S A TIME OF ANTICIPATION AND REFLECTION.

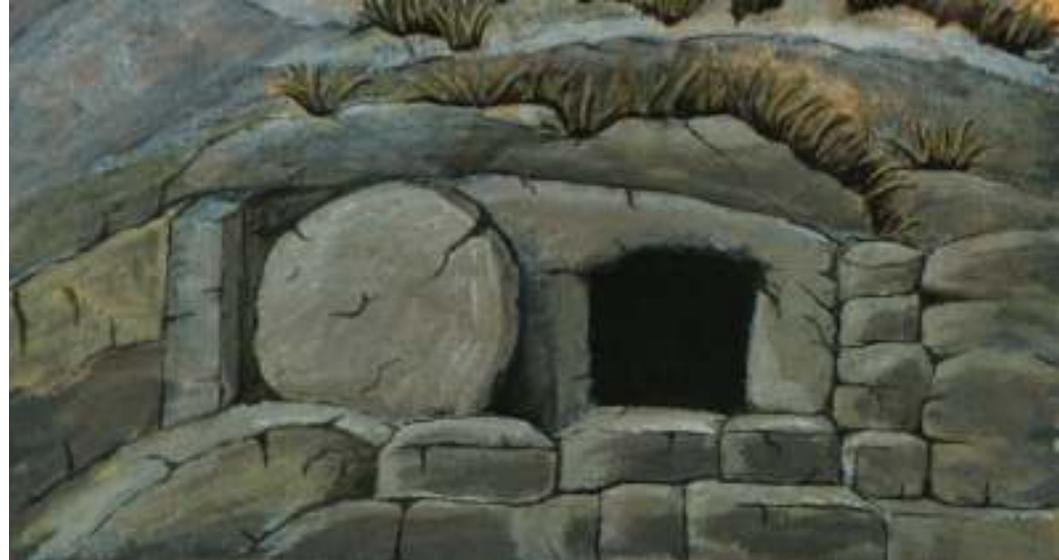
THE EVENTS OF HOLY WEEK REMIND US OF THE EVENTS THAT LEAD TO THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST. THROUGH THESE EVENTS ALL OF THE THINGS THAT WERE PROMISED TO US BY GOD CAME TO BE. THESE EVENTS SHOW THE LOVE THAT GOD HAS FOR ALL OF US HIS CHILDREN.

LET US GO OVER THE EVENTS OF HOLY WEEK AND REFLECT ON HOW THEY IMPACT OUR OWN FAITH JOURNEY.

Visit our website <https://missions.la-archdiocese.org/mca/> for more information on free educational material and other free resources by scanning the QR code below.



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JESUS IS BURIED

“Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it [in] clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewed in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed.”
(Matthew 27: 59-60)

When we think of being buried we think that it is the end of life. However we know that with the death of Jesus for us, we were granted eternal life. Throughout our faith journey we are called to die to sin, to things that make us move away from God. As missionary disciples we are called to sainthood. What are you doing to be closer to God?

JESUS TRIUMPHANTLY ENTERS JERUSALEM

Hosanna!

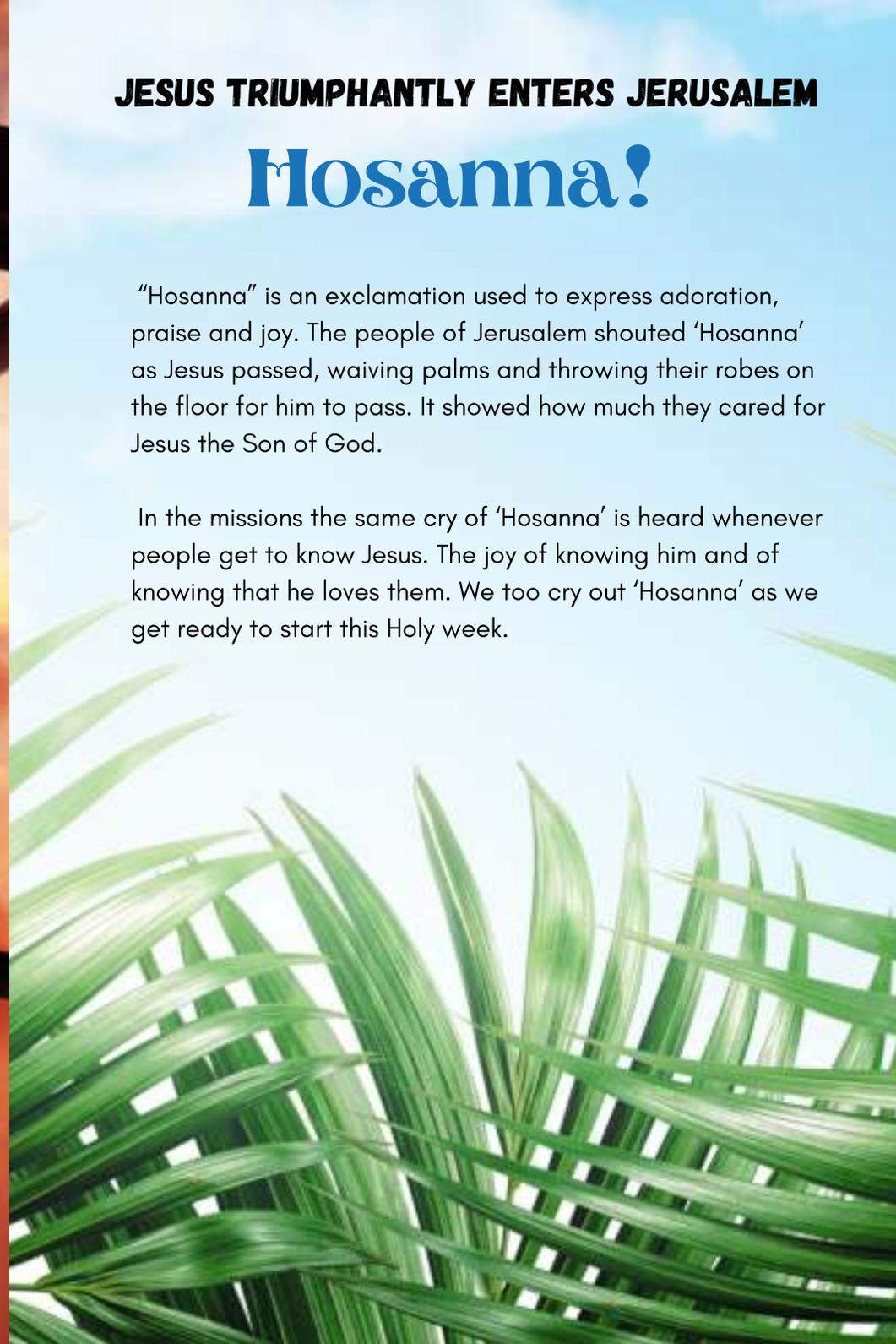
“Hosanna” is an exclamation used to express adoration, praise and joy. The people of Jerusalem shouted ‘Hosanna’ as Jesus passed, waiving palms and throwing their robes on the floor for him to pass. It showed how much they cared for Jesus the Son of God.

In the missions the same cry of ‘Hosanna’ is heard whenever people get to know Jesus. The joy of knowing him and of knowing that he loves them. We too cry out ‘Hosanna’ as we get ready to start this Holy week.

JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

“It was nine o’clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, ‘The King of the Jews.’ With him they crucified two revolutionaries, one on his right and one on his left.” (Mark 15: 25-27)

Jesus died for us and to save us from all of our sins. Nailed to the cross, he probably felt very alone. The same way we sometimes feel when we have problems. People in the missions might also feel alone with all the problems they face. However we are never alone, God is there with us. Let us pray for all those people who are dying and feeling alone. May they be comforted by the loving presence of God.



THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN

"Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.' He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will.'" (Matthew 26: 36,39)



Jesus knew what was to come and like any of us who have gone through very difficult times we need the strength of God to help us through. As we pray to God to help us, let us also imitate Jesus in asking God for the strength to overcome what may come always asking his will to be done and not ours. Difficult times in our lives help us to see the

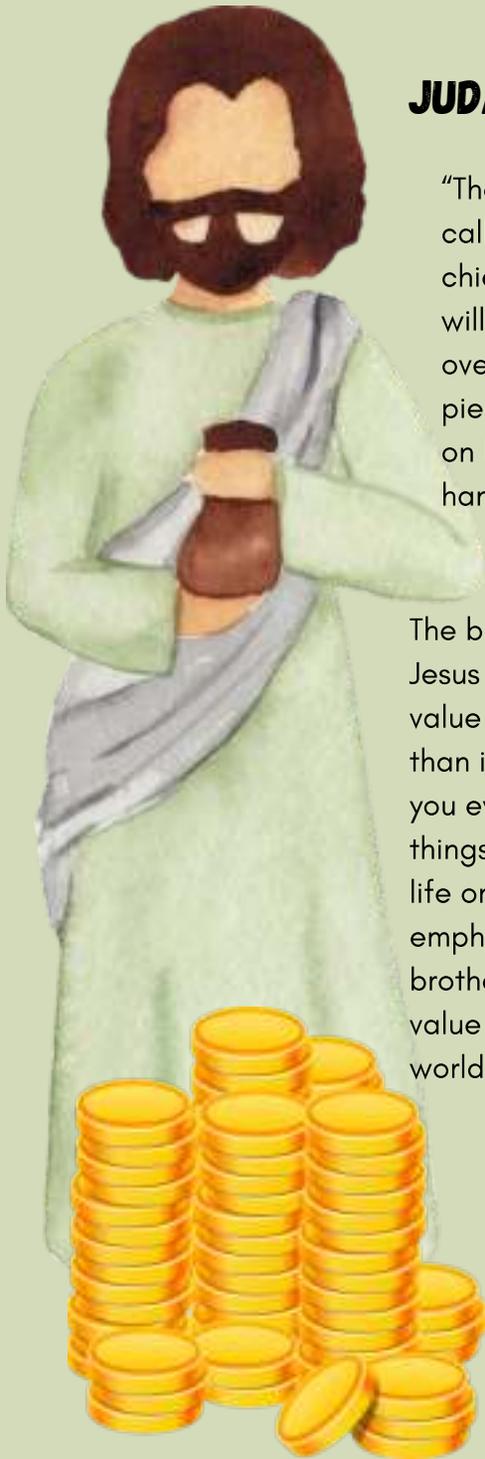
kindness and love of God through others in our lives. This is what missionaries do for people they help and through their actions help to bring the presence of God so that others may know God is with them at all times. How are you bringing the presence of God to others?

THE LAST SUPPER



"While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said, 'Take and eat; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins.'" (Matthew 26: 26-28)

Jesus Christ invites all of us to sit at the table with him when we gather every Sunday for mass. When we celebrate the Eucharist God is there among us, when we receive the bread and wine God nourishes our spirits. As the children of God we all have a place at his table, as brothers and sisters in Christ, we are one family in faith. A family that shares and cares for one another. This is the message that we as missionary disciples are called to proclaim to all. How will you share this message with all?

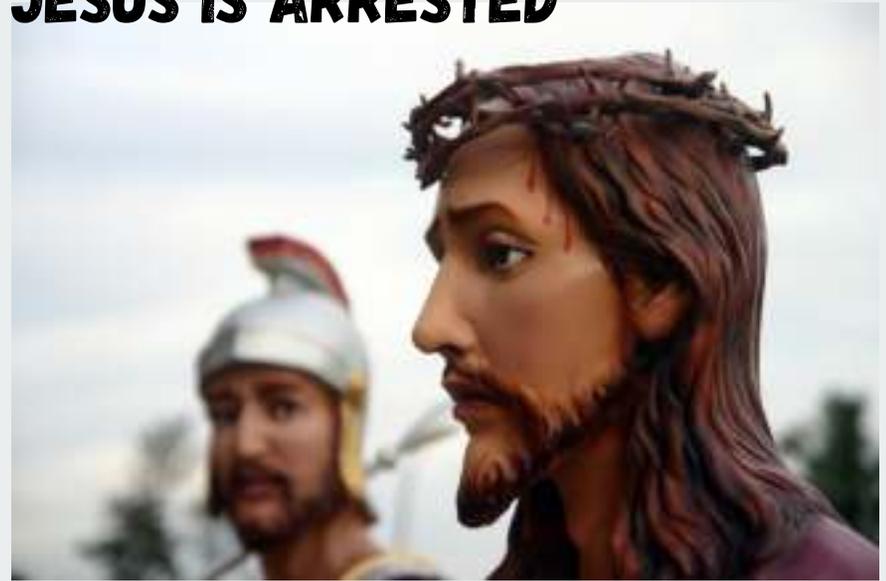


JUDAS BETRAYS JESUS

“Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priest and said, ‘What are you willing to give me if I hand [Jesus] over to you?’ They paid him thirty pieces of silver, and from that time on he looked for an opportunity to hand him over.” (Matthew 26: 14-16)

The betrayal of Judas was hurtful to Jesus who loved him. Judas placed more value on the things money could get him than in his friendship with Jesus. Have you ever placed more value on material things over the value of a person in your life or Jesus? Let us always put more emphasis on the value of people as our brothers and sisters in Christ above the value of the materialistic things the world has to offer us.

JESUS IS ARRESTED



When Jesus is arrested he is treated as a criminal. “The soldiers wove a crown of thorns and placed it on his head, and clothed him in a purple cloak” (John 19: 2)

Can you imagine the pain of having a crown of thorns placed on your head? If you have ever been cut or pricked by a needle you can imagine the pain. Let us remember that Jesus endured the pain because of his love for us. If he endured such pain for us can we not also endure making a sacrifice to help others? Can we, for the love of our brothers and sisters, make small sacrifices to help them?



JESUS WASHES THE FEET OF HIS DISCIPLES

"He rose from supper and took off his outer garments. He took a towel and tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet and dry them with the towel around his waist.

So when he had washed their feet [and] put his garments back on and reclined at the table again, he said to them, 'Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me 'teacher' and 'master', and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.'" (John 13: 4-5, 12-15)

Jesus calls us to serve one another, setting the example himself. When we humble ourselves to help others we are following in the example of Jesus. How can we as missionary disciples be of service to others?

PETER'S DENIAL FORETOLD

"Peter said to him in reply, 'Though all may have their faith in you shaken, mine will never be.' Jesus said to him, 'Amen, I say to you, this very night before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.' Peter said to him, 'Even though I should have to die with you, I will not deny you.' And all the disciples spoke likewise." (Matthew 26: 33-35)

Later on as Peter was outside in the courtyard after the arrest of Jesus he would deny Jesus on three different occasions. "Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had spoken: 'Before the rooster crows you will deny me three times.' He went out and began to weep bitterly." (Matthew 26: 75)

Have there ever been times when you have denied Jesus in front of others? It can be hard sometimes to do the right thing and stand by what God tells us is right. However no matter how many times we push away and deny God, he is always there for us waiting for us to turn to him and take his hand to lead us down the right path. Let us pray for all the children and youth who need to turn to God so they may know no matter what that God is waiting for them to call on Him.