**THE PALM SUNDAY AND THE PASSION SUNDAY, APRIL, 5, 2020.**

***My dear friends in Jesus,***

***Praise the Lord.!*** *I guess and pray that you are well, safe and healthy at your home with your dear ones. Do you really miss me..? With a heavy heart I truly tell you, I really miss you, yes, really miss you. This may be the first time in our life to miss our parish family in the Church for the Eucharistic banquet of Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Celebrations. It is really painful and sad.* ***But we are not separated, we are not separated, we are one, we are one Christ, wherever we are and in whatever pain we are undergoing, we are one in Love, we are one in Faith and Hope****.* ***I am with you, you are in my heart, you are in my Altar of Sacrifice,*** *especially in the moments of your uncertainties, sorrows and the pains and tears of isolation and the fears and panics of getting sick and dying.* ***Let us stay together in love, faith and hope, stay together with a positive mind and spirit. Stay safe, stay strong, and stay healthy.***

***Today we are celebrating both Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday***, combining the contrasting moments of Glory and Suffering. Today our Lord Jesus Christ in an unusual and unique way inspires us that there is ***no Crown and Glory without the Pain of Cross and Suffering.***

***Today we actively participate in Two Processions. First the “Palm Procession” and Second the “Passion Procession.”***

**First, the “Palm Procession”** which is the procession and the proclamation of Hope and Joy, holding up in our hands the Palm Leaves of Hope, joining together with the people of Jerusalem, we Proclaim; ***“Hosana, Hosana, and Hosana in the Highest..!”*** ***What it really means..!*** This is a loud cry and prayer of People of Jerusalem, expecting and hoping a savior in our Lord Jesus Christ, ***“Lord, the Prince of Peace and Salvation, Help and Save us from our Sorrows and Distress”*** “Comfort and console us, showering with the Rain of Peace and Prosperity.”

**This Corona Virus spreading time is an unusual time to make a loud cry and pray, “Lord, our Prince of Peace and Salvation, our true Healer and Physician, help and save us and deliver us from the spreading of Corona Virus. Save us from the fear of getting sick and from the fear of dying, from the fear of frustrations and starvation, and from the fear of financial crisis. Save and Strengthen us, Be always with us in the moments of isolation and depression. Let us pray together; “Hosana, Hosana, Hosana in the Highest..!”**

**The Second is the Passion Procession**, the procession of Faith and Love, the Procession of obedience and sacrifice, holding in our hands the Cross of sufferings and sorrows, the Cross of Strength and Salvation, let us walk and draw near to our Lord Jesus on the Way of the Cross. He **suffered** a lot for us, He is bearing our sorrows and our sufferings. He is suffering for our sins and weaknesses. He **sacrificed** His life on the Cross for us, stretching out His hands, shedding his blood and taking the last breath on the Cross tells us; ***“This much I Love you..!”*** Jesus on the Cross is our **Model and Mediator,** and **our Great Example** of how to suffer and and strengthen ourselves in the midst of our sorrows and sufferings.

Today, Jesus tells us to ***hold, hug and take*** to our home, **First, the Palms of Hope,** **Second the Cross of Strength** and Salvation and **Third, like John, hold the hands of Blessed Mother Mary,** walk with her and take her to our home.

***On this Passion Sunday, let us kneel and pray for a moment, hugging the nailed foot of the Lord, let us offer all our sorrows and sufferings, pains and panics, fears and frustrations, crisis and cries, trials and tribulations, tensions and temptations, sins and weaknesses, anxieties and depressions, everything in to the wounded hands and pierced heart of the Lord and pray Lord, through your precious blood, protect us, purify us , strengthen us and deliver us, and provide us all the blessing to have a peaceful, healthy, humble and holy life, Amen.***

***Father Thomas Nattekkadan.***