



8th April 2022

## Holy Week Reflection by Fr Pawel

Elie Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor, and peace activist, wrote that, “The opposite of love is not hate, it’s indifference. The opposite of art is not ugliness, it’s indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it’s indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it’s indifference.”

In most cases, our indifference is born of comfort or gratification and a sense that “I shouldn’t get involved” or “it isn’t my business.” Sadly, we can all-too-easily recognise how these attitudes, allow injustice, abuse, and neglect, to continue in so many places in the world today.

In recent weeks we see the world’s indifference towards the senseless war in Ukraine and the needs of people who fled their country to find refuge. Let us open our hearts to others in need and generously support ACN’s Appeal for Ukraine during our special collection on Holy Saturday and Easter celebrations. Collection boxes will be placed at church doors. Credit card donation forms and special prayer cards will be placed on the pews.

My dear friends, the inconvenience, discomfort, sadness, and pain, that we feel, should call us into action, to open our hearts and pay attention to what is happening around the world. This is the only real antidote to indifference.

Palm Sunday and Holy Week reveal for us a God who, in Jesus, was anything but indifferent: “He emptied himself, taking the form of a slave ... he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:7a, 8).

Although Palm Sunday’s ability to confront and confound our indifference can be alarming or even frightening, the real grace of this celebration is in the opportunity it provides for us to renew our commitment to life in Christ.

The days of Holy Week challenge us to imagine a life in which — rather than simply limping along from “mistake” to “mistake” — we take responsibility for our indifference, our self-preference, and our sins, to become free to grow in love, and to care about what we do for others, towards nature, and to our own bodies, psyches, and souls.

Christ Resurrection brings us joy and assurance that whatever we do for our own spiritual benefits, and if we give hand to those who are in need, we make God’s kingdom present among us. May God fill you with hope and faith as we celebrate again, in these difficult times, the great mystery of Resurrection.

God bless you!

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