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## PALM SUNDAY

Homily of the Right Reverend Dom Jean PATEAU  
Abbot of Our Lady of Fontgombault  
(Fontgombault, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025)

*Hosanna filio David!*  
Hosanna to the Son of David!  
(Mt 21:9)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
My dearly beloved Sons,

**W**ITH THE ANGELS and children, let us celebrate Christ the King. Behold, He is crossing the gates of Jerusalem, riding on a donkey foal saddled with the disciples' garments. Those who witness the procession spread their own garments on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowd cries, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" As is his custom, the Evangelist Matthew points out that this event, which is the cause of such a turmoil for the city of Jerusalem, is but the fulfilment of the prophecy of Zachary:

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Sion, shout for joy, O daughter of Jerusalem: Behold thy King will come to thee, the just and saviour: He is poor, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt, the foal of an ass.<sup>a</sup>

*a. Za 9:9.*

This day refers us to the Lord's transfiguration, evoked on the 2nd Sunday of Lent, a manifestation of His glory.

Let us therefore consider the whole path the Church has invited us to tread, and should our Lent time not have been fervent enough, let's take advantage of these last few days to

repair our past lukewarmness, and prepare ourselves for the Paschal mystery.

On the threshold of this holy time, an ash cross was drawn on our forehead: “Remember, O man, that thou art dust, and into dust thou shalt return.” These words might be conducive to despair, if Psalm 102 did not open a way to comfort us: God “knows how we are formed, He remembers that we are dust.”<sup>b</sup>

*b. Ps 102 (103):114.*

Whereas we are entering the sorrowful week during which Christ is going to be forsaken by many of His disciples, and by most of His apostles, we remember the episode of the temptation in the desert, narrated on the 1st Sunday.

While she invites us to tread the way of penance, the Church reminds us that we are not alone. Prophets, and above all Christ Himself, have taken this way: forty days in the desert, which could not go unnoticed by the tempter. He incites Jesus to give up fasting, and to take to gluttony, and also to tempt God by demanding a sign; last, he offers Him glory, at the price of an unconditional allegiance. When Jesus has vanquished the Evil One, angels come and minister to Him. Peter, James, and John contemplate Christ’s transfigured humanity on the top of Thabor. As to we, we acclaim this same humanity today, along with the common people of Jerusalem.

But, as Jesus didn’t want to remain on the top of Thabor, He doesn’t want to force His kingship on us. From now on, His lot will be the desert of Golgotha, where only Mary, John the Apostle, and a few women will stay with Him. We are invited to join them, to die with Christ through the sacrament of penance, and to rise again with Him, according to Ezekiel’s prophecy:

And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I shall have opened your sepulchres, and shall have brought you out of your graves, O my people: and shall have put my spirit in you, and you shall live, and I shall make you rest upon your own land: and you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken, and done it, saith the Lord God.<sup>c</sup>

*c. Ez 37:13-14.*

Indeed, God has remembered that we are dust. He has kept faith.

Fervent Holy Week. Amen.