

FR HUGH'S HOMILY FOR PALM SUNDAY Yr C 2025

What does Jesus feel in these final days?

Think of yourself as being in his place for a moment.

Celebrated as king as no High Priest, pharisee or Roman governor has ever been by his people since King David.

‘Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.’

Yet within days

betrayed by the same people, his people,

‘release to us Barabbas,’ the murderer they cry instead.

Then stripped of his clothes and his dignity,

forced to carry his cross through the baying crowds,

and crucified for all to see, as a common criminal.

Where now is his victory?

Yet in what way does his divinity open his eyes to the full meaning of the cross?

‘Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!’ are his last words.

In these days he lives his humanity to the full,

yet unlike ourselves so often, he has total and complete faith in his

Father’s will, his Father’s plan.

‘Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me.

Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.’

He could be reflecting the words of his mother at his conception,

‘I am the handmaid, the servant, of the Lord.’

On the cross he sees his mother,

and dies as her son, as he was born.

In total faith that he does so in the love of his Father.