

## REFECTION ON HOLY WEEK BY DOM GUÉRANGER

The past four weeks seems to have been but a preparation for the intense grief of the Church during these two. She knows that men are in search of her Jesus, and that they are bent on His death. Before twelve days are over, she will see them lay their sacrilegious hands upon Him. She will have to follow Him up the hill of Calvary; she will have to receive His last breath; she must witness the stone placed against the sepulchre where His lifeless Body is laid. We cannot, therefore, be surprised at her inviting all her children to contemplate, during these weeks, Him who is the object of all her love and all her sadness.

But our mother asks something more of us than compassion and tears; she would have us profit by the lessons we are to be taught by the Passion and Death of our Redeemer. He himself, when going up to Calvary, said to the holy women who had the courage to show their compassion even before His very executioners: 'Weep not over Me; but weep for yourselves and for your children' [St. Luke xxiii. 28]. It was not that He refused the tribute of their tears, for He was pleased with this proof of their affection; but it was His love for them that made him speak thus. He desired, above all, to see them appreciate the importance of what they were witnessing, and learn from it how in exorable is God's justice against sin.

Let us, therefore, do our utmost to receive these strong impressions, too little known, alas! by the superficial piety of these times. Let us reflect upon the love and affection of the Son of God, who has treated His creatures with such unlimited confidence, lived their own life, spent His three and thirty years amidst them, not only humbly and peaceably, but in going about doing good [Acts i. 38]. And now this life of kindness, condescension, and humility, is to be cut short by the disgraceful death, which none but slaves endured: the death of the cross. Let us consider, on the one side, this sinful people, who, having no crimes to lay to Jesus' charge, accuse Him of his benefits, and carry their detestable ingratitude to such a pitch as to shed the Blood of this innocent and divine Lamb; and then, let us turn to this Jesus, the Just by excellence, and see Him become a prey to every bitterest suffering: His Soul sorrowful even unto death [St. Matt. xxvi. 38]; weighed down by the malediction of our sins; drinking even to the very dregs the chalice He so humbly asks His Father to take from Him; and lastly, let us listen to His dying words: 'My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?' [Ibid. xxvii. 46].



### SAINT JOSEPH ORATORY

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### HOLY WEEK CEREMONIES

**Today, Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>:** Palm Sunday. Blessing of Palms and Procession, followed by sung Mass at 11am. **Note well that no confessions will be heard after Mass Today.**

**Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>:** Maundy Thursday. Sung Mass at 8.30pm, followed by Eucharistic Procession and adoration at the Altar of Repose.

**Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>:** Good Friday. Mass of the Presanctified at 6.30pm.

**Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>:** Holy Saturday. Ceremonies begin at 11am.

**Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>:** Easter Sunday. Sung Mass at 11am, followed by the blessing of Easter bread, eggs and other foods. **Note well that no confessions will be heard after Mass on Easter Sunday.**

Confessions will be heard prior to all services.

