**Palm Sunday**

March 25th 2018

*Stand out from the crowd*

Today is Palm Sunday, which means two Gospel readings, one for the Procession with Palms and one for the Liturgy of the Word during mass. They are both so different, the first we hear of Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem, when crows rushed out to meet Him, laying down cloaks and waving palms. The second takes a dramatic turn, the same crowds that welcomed Jesus now stand and shout for Him to be crucified.

It can be hard to understand how the crowd turned so fast, in just 3 days they go from praising Jesus to condemning Him; but then I look at my own life. Often as a Catholic, especially as a young adult, it can seem as though I’m living a ‘double life’. On a Sunday when I go to mass it’s easy to say that I want to live for Jesus and give Him room in my life, but then I leave Church and start to push Jesus to one side, give him less and less time each day. That takes just a few minutes, a lot shorter than 3 days!

While I may not stand in the street and shout ‘crucify him!’ my actions do not always live up to the life that God calls me to. Is what I’m talking about with my friends glorifying God rather than gossiping? Is what I’m watching on TV leading my closer to God or is it simply wasting time? Am I making the most of opportunities to share Jesus with others or do I shy away from it?

I think about the fact that Jesus died for my sins, of the great sacrifice He made out of love for me and it leads me to be sorry for failing Him. More than this though, it makes me want to change for the better, I want to be more than just a person in the crowd who changes their attitude based on what other people think.

Heading into the Easter Triduum I would invite you to think with me about what we can do to have the courage to stand out from the crowd for Jesus, how we can be faithful to Him this Easter.

Sophie

SYMT