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01<sup>st</sup> April 2023

Dear Confreres, members of the Salesian family and friends,

The Lenten season is gradually coming to a close and we are preparing ourselves to enter into an important and graceful Holy Week. This will then culminate with the celebration of Easter - a season of Life, Light, Hope and Peace. Therefore, as we prepare for these important events, I would like to share a short reflection on the Holy Week and Easter Season.

### HOLY WEEK!!!

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday and ends with Easter Sunday: Palm and Passion Sunday or *Dominica in Palmis de Passione Domini*. Palm Sunday commemorates the Triumphal entry into Jerusalem described in all four gospels. As described in these accounts, Christ's entry into Jerusalem was noted by the crowds present who shouted praises and waved palm branches. In the Roman Rite, before 1955 it was known simply as Palm Sunday, and the preceding Sunday as Passion Sunday. From 1955 to 1971 it was called Second Sunday in Passiontide or Palm Sunday.

In many liturgical denominations, to commemorate Christ's entry into Jerusalem to accomplish his paschal mystery, it is customary to have a blessing of palm leaves or other branches, for example olive branches. The blessing ceremony includes the reading of a Gospel account of Jesus humbly riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, reminiscent of a Davidic victory procession, and people placing palm and other branches on the ground before him.

Holy Week celebrates the Paschal Mystery, the passion and death of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and his victorious resurrection, his triumph over sin and death and his glorification by his Father.

### PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

Palm Sunday is also known as a dual feast. It is the only Sunday when two separate gospels are read. The Passion is the longest Sunday gospel of the year. The Holy Mass has two jarringly different moods, jubilation at the outset, then lamentation. Jesus' entry to Jerusalem was exuberant as the people joyfully cheered Hosanna to greet him, but moments later all is somber, first with the Suffering Servant who gave his back to those who beat him (Is 50:6), then with Jesus who obediently accepted death on a cross (Phil 2:8), and then with the Passion and his agony, scourging, and crucifixion (Mt 26:14-27:66).

✦ **Symbols:** The primary symbol for Palm Sunday is palms, a sign that the people regarded Jesus as their victorious king. There are many symbols for the Passion: a single cross, three crosses, the cup of suffering, thirty pieces of silver, a lantern, swords and clubs, a blade and a severed ear, handcuffs or shackles, a rooster crowing, a scourging pillar, whips, a crown of thorns, a reed, three nails, hammer and pincers, a rope, the INRI inscription, a sprig of hyssop, three dice, a tunic, a lance, a ladder, an urn for spices, a shroud or burial linens, and a skull.

✦ **Action Items:** We need to take some palms home and use them to venerate a crucifix or decorate a statue, picture, or sacred object. Go off by ourselves to re-read some or all of the Passion and meditate on it. If there are others at home, discuss what it would have been like to have been part of the Palm Sunday procession or to have been standing along the Way of Cross as Jesus passed by or at Calvary when Jesus was crucified.

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## EASTER TRIDUUM

The Triduum is the most solemn moment of the Church year. It lasts three days. It begins on Holy Thursday evening with the Holy Mass of the Lord's Supper, continues with the celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, and reaches its culmination with the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday, and it ends with Evening Prayer late Easter Sunday.

✦ **Action Items:** These days are the "high holy days" of our Christian faith, and as Jews would stream to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover in the Temple, ideally Catholics would stream to their local churches to celebrate these sacred mysteries with their parish communities. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil are times that we should want to go to Church. Triduum is the moment to place other things on hold while our faith gets top priority.

✦ **Triduum Fast:** With the arrival of Holy Thursday, the forty days of Lent and its discipline are over. Whatever a person's special program was for Lent, whether it was to give something up, add extra prayers, do good deeds, or share alms, the program is done, but one must not relax too quickly. As soon as the forty-day Lenten fast ends, a new three-day fast begins, The Triduum Fast, a period of even more intense self-denial in immediate preparation for the greatest feast of all, Easter. It is customary to extend the Lenten discipline three additional days. Many decide to make one or more key additions such as a holy hour, a visit to the Church or chapel, an extended period of silence, no TV or Movies, and three days of fasting from physical food. It also involves a spiritual fast, Good Friday from the Holy Mass, but with the reception of the Holy Eucharist or Holy Communion, and Holy Saturday, the deepest fast of all, when not only is there no Holy Mass, it is the only day that the Church foregoes reception of the Holy Communion.

✦ **HOLY THURSDAY:** The Easter Triduum begins with the evening Holy Eucharist of the Lord's Supper. the Holy Eucharist recounts the establishment of the Jewish feast of Passover; and it commemorates the Institution of the Holy Eucharist, the institution of the Priesthood, and the foot washing. John's placement of the foot washing where the other evangelists place the Last Supper conveys his belief that the real presence of Christ is found not only in the Eucharist but in service. Jesus gave us his *mandatum* or mandate: "You ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you an example. As I have done, so you should also do" (Jn 13:14,15). Jesus is made present when disciples put aside their prideful aspirations, humble themselves, and serve one another, even to the point of doing a menial task joyfully.

✦ **Symbols:** The symbols of the foot washing are a basin, water pitcher, and towel; the symbols of the Holy Eucharist are a host and a chalice, wheat and grapes, a loaf or basket of bread and a jug of wine, and five loaves and two fish; and the symbols of the priesthood are a stole, a book of the gospels, a host and a chalice, and a censer.

✦ **Action Items:** If your parish or institution offers a Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament after Holy Thursday Mass, consider taking advantage of the opportunity. Offer a prayer that your priest might be devoted to the Eucharist and a humble servant. Be on the lookout for someone who might need assistance, and gladly help without drawing attention to ourselves.

✦ **GOOD FRIDAY:** The celebration of the Lord's Passion is a somber liturgy with three major parts: the proclamation of the Passion, the veneration of the Cross, and the reception of the Holy Communion. In addition, there is an extended set of General Intercessions with ten petitions for some of the most important concerns for the Holy Church and the world.





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✦ **Symbols:** The symbol of Good Friday is the crucifix, a cross with a *corpus* or body of the crucified Jesus. Other artistic forms of the cross are also commonly used.

✦ **Action Items:** It is worthwhile to set aside some silent time, particularly between the hours of 12.00 noon and 3.00 pm. Be sure that at least one crucifix is prominently displayed in the home, because veneration of the cross is not just for Good Friday, but for every day. It is an ideal day to offer Jesus a prayer of thanks for all He suffered on our behalf, and to renew our pledge to avoid the sins that we have committed that put Him on the cross.

✦ **EASTER VIGIL:** Weeks of fasting and self-denial are directed toward the highest point of the Church year, the Easter Vigil, the feast of the resurrection. It ranks first because our entire faith hinges on it. As St. Paul said, "If Christ had not been raised, your faith is in vain" (1 Cor 15:17). But the pillar of faith is that "Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Cor 15:20), and in this firm conviction the Church rejoices with all of the energy it can muster: Alleluia! The Easter Vigil begins with the Service of Light, the lighting of the Easter Candle and the singing of the Easter Proclamation, the Exulted. Then after an extended Liturgy of the Word, the Vigil continues with the Liturgy of Baptism during which the Litany of Saints is sung, the water of the font is blessed, baptismal promises are made, the candidates are baptized, and for the adults, confirmation is received. The Vigil concludes with the Liturgy of the Holy Eucharist and first Holy Communion for the newly initiated members.

✦ **Symbols:** The primary symbol of the Vigil is the Easter Candle, also known as the Paschal or Christ Candle, as well as the symbols for baptism: water, a seashell, the font, oil, the white baptismal garment, the baptismal candle, a dove, and three interlocking fish which represent the Trinitarian formula.

✦ **EASTER SUNDAY:** Easter Sunday is the daytime celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord. The congregation is jubilant over the risen Christ and the triumph of his most holy Cross. The Church is festively decorated. The vestments are white and gold. The Glory to God and the Alleluia are restored. The Creed is replaced with the renewal of baptismal promises, followed by a sprinkling rite. The Church resounds with a joyful sound: *Jesus Christ is risen today! Alleluia!*

✦ **Easter symbols** include the Easter Cross, a plain cross without a corpus draped in flowing white or gold fabrics; three empty crosses; lilies; the palm of victory; an empty tomb; an empty sarcophagus; an empty casket; a pile of burial wrapping; the hand of God; the morning sun; a butterfly; a cracked Easter egg; a trumpet; a Phoenix; pomegranates; a peacock; and the Easter Candle.

✦ **Action Items:** Great news cannot be contained: share the Good News with someone! Jesus preached love, and He died out of love for us. On Easter Sunday go out of our way to love someone with all our might, because where there is love, there is the risen Christ!

Now we need to think of the God who is our Father, brother and friend. The God who as I said is for all – Look into the eyes of Jesus in our minds...see a myriad of emotions...of pain and suffering...being gradually replaced by a gentle longing...as He reaches out to you and says through His eyes...come to me...You are mine...I was with you when you were born and I will be with you holding your hand when you die...and then comes the twinkle...the whimsical smile...as Jesus says to you, life is for living...enjoy your life...and give back to me all that I have given to you, by helping your fellow men and women...and then the grin...And oh...by the way...don't forget to pray. Amen.



## INS NEWS & INFORMATION

### TEAM VISIT IN HYDERABAD

A total of 126 members of the “Team Visit 2023 of South Asia Region”, along with the Rector Major, Fr. Ángel Fernández Artime and his Council gathered at the Provincial House of the Province of St. Joseph, Hyderabad from 01<sup>st</sup> – 03<sup>rd</sup> March 2023. Among those present were the Regional Superior of South Asia, Provincials & members of the Provincial Councils, secretaries of various networks, Rectors of Post-noviates & Theologates, and Moderators of Provincial Chapters. The main theme for their discussion was “Forward together on the Path of GC 28”. Below were some of the major themes that were discussed, deliberated and based on them certain decisions were made:

1. Growth in charismatic identity in Salesian life.
2. Renewing Youth Ministry with a focus on the poorest of poor while taking care of the sustainability of the mission.
3. Co-responsibility for the mission with Laity and the Salesian family.
4. Identity of Salesians in South Asia,
5. Collaboration and synergy with the Congregation in human resource.

In the name of the INS Province, we would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to our beloved Rector Major, the General Councillors, Regional Superior of South Asia and others, but in a very special way our gratitude goes to Hyderabad Province under the able leadership of Fr. Santiago Thomas the Provincial, his Council members, the confreres, the close collaborators and the domestic staff of the provincial house.

### EPISCOPAL ORDINATION OF REV. FR. WILBERT MARWEÍN

The Episcopal ordination of Rev. Fr. Wilbert Marweín, the Bishop Elect of Nongstoin Diocese will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at Pyndengrei Parish - Nongstoin. I request the confreres to free yourself on this day to participate in the episcopal ordination and pray for the bishop elect of Nongstoin. May the good Lord bless him. May Jesus the Good Shepherd continue to be his inspiration and model. Mother Mary and St. John Bosco intercede for him.

### VOCATION CAMP 2023

We wish Fr. Vice Provincial, the Vocation Director and his team for the success of the forth coming Vocation Camp of the Post Matric, Cl. XI, Cl. XII, UG and PG. It will be held from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at Pastoral Centre Shillong. Kindly announce in our parishes, schools and all our institutions. Kindly encourage boys to attend the vocation camp and follow them up. May the Lord bless them all.

### VESTITION OF NOVICES

The vestition of the 33 novices who are doing their novitiate at Don Bosco Sunnyside will be held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at Don Bosco Shrine, Sohra. The Holy Eucharist will begin at 10.00 am wherein the vestition ceremony will take place. Let us pray for the novices that they may prepare well for this important step in their life.





## HOLIDAY CAMP AT RRTC UMRAN

The Post-matric aspirants from Savio Juniorate are camping at St. Joseph's Agricultural Resource Rural Training Centre Umrans after their exams. They reached RRTC on 27<sup>th</sup> March and will be there till 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2023. We wish Fr. Prabir Minj and Cl. Octopaul Marbañiang all the very best as they accompany the aspirants. We also thank Fr. Kenny Pakma (Rector and Director), Fr. Barnabas Syiem and other staff who are assisting and instructing them. We wish them all the best.

## IMMEDIATE PREPARATION FOR THE PRENOVIATE 2023

The Aspirants from Don Bosco Aspirantate Nonglakhiat and Pastoral Centre who have completed their Cl. XII will have their immediate preparation for the Prenoviate at St. Joseph's Agricultural Resource Rural Training Centre Umrans from 22<sup>nd</sup> April to 03<sup>rd</sup> June 2023. Prayerful wishes to Fr. Daniel Dabitlang M Cajee, Cl. Lamkumar Nonglang and Cl. Mark Donald Suchiang who will accompany and train the new batch of Prenovices. Thanks to Fr. Kenny Pakma, Fr. Barnabas Syiem and other staff who will be assisting and guiding them. We wish them all the best.

## ADMINISTRATORS & LAY ACCOUNTANTS MEETING

We congratulate and thank Fr. James Thyrniang, the Economist, and his staff for having conducted the Administrators and Lay Accountants meeting at Don Bosco Provincial House, Mawlai. It was held on 09<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023. It was really good and was successful. Around 50 Salesians and lay collaborators attended this meeting. May the Lord bless them all.

## BIRTHDAY WISHES

My prayerful wishes to all the confreres who celebrate their birthday this month. I assure them of my prayers and may God bless them and their ministry.

Dates	Names	Dates	Names
01	Cl. Jokim Manar	14	<b>Bp. Rajendran Kuttinadar</b>
02	Cl. Jeffrey Kurbah	15	Br. Pascal Dkhar
04	Cl. Khelaiñbor Warjri	16	Cl. Khrawbok Nongsiej
05	Fr. Michael Khongngaiñ	17	Fr. Anthony Lurshai Wahlang
06	Cl. Kitboklang Tyngkan	22	Br. Simon Thaimai
07	Cl. Silvanus Nongdhar		Fr. John Kalapura
08	Br. Wanpherbor Lyngdoh	23	Fr. George Rodrigues
	Fr. Thomas Manooramparambil (MC)		Cl. Leo Myrchiang
	Fr. Jose Valiaveetil (VK)	24	Fr. Peter Syiemlieh
	Br. Solomon Swer		Fr. Mark Thanglamtuanga
09	Fr. Paul Kuttala	25	Cl. Pynshaibha Latam
	Fr. Patrick Khupzalana Ngaihte		Cl. Jack Samuel Wahlang
10	Fr. Barnes Mawrie	29	Fr. Michael Makri
12	Cl. Donboklang Nongkhaw		Cl. Shaisingstar Lyngdoh



## THE DEPARTED

Let us pray for the repose of the departed souls:

- ✠ **Fr. Thomas Vailatt SDB (INK)**
- ✠ **Fr. John Bosco Minj SDB (INS)**
- ✠ **Mrs. Theresiama** – Mother of Fr. Biju Michael
- ✠ **Mr. Joseph Kujur** – Elder brother of Fr. William Kujur
- ✠ **Mr. Peter Lakra** – Younger brother of Fr. Edmund Lakra

We express our heartfelt condolences to Fr. Biju Michael, Fr. William Kujur, Fr. Edmund Lakra, the provincial and confreres of Bangalore and the family members of the deceased.

## CONCLUSION

After Thomas' confession of Jesus as his Lord and God, Jesus replied (20:29), "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, believed." Does that include us? Jesus promises to bless us if we will believe in Him as our Lord and God, who died for our sins and was raised from the dead. His resurrection from the dead is historically true, whether we believe it or not. But it's through believing in Him as the crucified and risen Lord that He blesses us.

His blessing does not mean that we will be spared from struggles and trials. History indicates that almost all of the disciples were persecuted and finally suffered martyrs' deaths. But when they died, they were welcomed into the eternal joy of their Master in heaven. Because His resurrection is historically true, He offers the same good news to all who will believe in Him.

**HAPPY EASTER!**

**MAY THE RISEN SAVIOUR OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST  
BRING PEACE, LIGHT, WISDOM, HOPE AND LOVE!**

**Praying for you all!!!**

Yours in Don Bosco,



Fr. Paul Olphindro Lyngkot SDB  
Provincial

