

## **Reflections on Palm Sunday 25C.**

*Mass: Isaiah 50:4-7; Psalm: 21; Philippians 2:6-11; Luke 22:14-23:56.*

I remember vividly, on my pilgrimage to the Holy Land, standing above the walled city on the Mount of Olives, overlooking the gate through which Jesus rode into Jerusalem. I imagined what it must have been like riding on a donkey into this busy city. In my imagination this small group of peasants from the outback must have looked ridiculous to the city powers that be. Perhaps they were all making fun of Jesus. We take it seriously because we know what would happen and who Jesus was. Maybe then it was fun for the inhabitants of the city. How could it be a threat to the mighty city with all its wealth and power. It was a gesture in which Jesus came to challenge the established powers. How could they have taken it seriously? Jesus was not fomenting revolution and terrorism, but he had the courage to challenge at a deeper level. Perhaps the more astute knew just what a threat he was. The city is a symbol of all human power, as it is today. It is also a dream of what might be. It is a paradox that would end with the death of Jesus, like so many dreamers. Yet the dream continues, the new Jerusalem, a new city, is the promise of resurrection life. In the cities of Ukraine, Myanmar, Belarus, Syria and Palestine the dream continues. We hold on to the promise of Jesus and enter the city.