

## **Palm Sunday – 20.3.16**

Very briefly.

We cannot hear the account of Our Lord's crucifixion without being moved by it.

The hymn, "There is a Green Hill far away" speaks for us:

"We may not know we cannot tell

What pain he had to bear

But we believe it was for us

He hung and suffered there."

We believe it was "for us" – because we know that we are sinners. We need no thesis on the fact. It is simply self-evident that too often our attitude is, "me first". We may work/act or strive against putting ourselves first – but we are under no illusions of the strength of that temptation.

Prince William was interviewed on TV News this past week. What matters to him is the gradual extinction of wild animals in South Africa. This matters to him very much – as indeed it does to us. With him we too know pain and anger. And when things matter to us we become changed people.

So it is we are changed when we delight in the most unlikely animal, say, a rhinoceros running very gracefully. And we are changed in seeing the carcass of an elephant minus its tusks – and knowing enmity for those responsible.

It is what goes on within us that we think upon this morning. And what goes on, is that struggle between discipleship and vacuity – emptiness.

Mindful of Our Lord's passion – mindful that he suffers for us – mindful of the depth of God's love for mankind. We choose to be changed. Being not conformed to this world – but transformed by the renewing of our mind for we are living in the last days. (Romans Ch.12 v.2)