

Palm Sunday Mass

14 April 2019

Monsignor Michael Keating and the Good Shepherd Latin Mass Community celebrated a very special Palm Sunday Mass. First came the Blessing of Palms, where the palms were sprinkled with holy water and covered with incense. Monsignor Keating distributed the palms to the faithful as each person approached the altar rails.



Before the Palm Sunday Mass.



Prayers for the Blessing of Palms.

After the Gospel, the Sanctuary group, choir and the faithful went outside for a procession around the car park. The Chapel doors were closed upon our return: Monsignor Keating knocked on the door three times with the processional crucifix, asking for God's door to be opened. Both doors were opened wide and the faithful allowed back in for the remainder of the Mass.



Procession around the car park.



Returning to the closed Chapel.

Pope Benedict XVI in his 2007 Palm Sunday homily, said this of the ancient form of Holy Week rites: *'In the old liturgy for Palm Sunday, the priest, arriving in front of the church, would knock loudly with the shaft of the processional cross on the door that was still closed; thereupon, it would be opened.*

'This was a beautiful image of the mystery of Jesus Christ himself who, with the wood of his Cross, with the power of his love that is given, knocked from the side of the world at God's door; on the side of a world that was not able to find access to God. With his Cross, Jesus opened God's door, the door between God and men. Now it is open.'



Monsignor Keating knocking on the Chapel door. The door opens to the faithful.



The remainder of the Mass.

Reference:

Zalonski, P.A. 2018. At the Door on Palm Sunday <http://communio.stblogs.org/index.php/2018/03/at-the-door-on-palm-sunday/>