

## Palm Sunday

Written by W.J.Pais

---

## Palm Sunday

[LISTEN TO THE CATHOLIC HYMNS ON LINE](#)

by Tony Fernandes



At the triple chimes  
of village church bell,  
we rose up early and saw  
in the serene stillness before the dawn  
the bright morning star in the East  
right above the sky's edge;  
and as we turned our gaze  
southwards above the horizon  
saw the constellation  
called the Southern Cross.  
twinkling just above the backyard hedge.

Too dark and early we thought  
to pluck the new shoot  
of the coconut palm leaf;  
so while some of us lay in wait  
my siblings went back to sleep;  
as the sky lightened a little bit  
we saw the palm  
and cut it in right earnest  
with the last shooting star of the night  
hastily streaking towards the west.

Somewhere nearby  
the cock crew  
heralding the early morn  
with its wake-up call;  
and a sudden rustle  
as the first bird of the day took flight  
from the mango tree  
up my spine sent a slight chill.

## Palm Sunday

Written by W.J.Pais

---

Careful were we  
not to rip the young palm open;  
we decorated it the best we could  
in the light of the early morning dawn;  
then donning our Sunday best  
onwards we walked  
to the Church to have it blessed.

Returned home  
with the sun up and bright  
and proudly we handed over  
the holy strands of the palm  
to the old folks  
inn the village  
still busy by the fireside  
they thanked, blessed and offered  
as a reward  
a cup of tea in return  
intoning the timeless saying:

**“God bless you my son”.** ☐ ☐

[www.tonferns.blogspot.com](http://www.tonferns.blogspot.com)

Palm Sunday, the sixth and last Sunday of Lent, is the beginning of Holy Week.  
The Catholic community in Goa celebrate the day with great solemnity.

Young children beautifully decorate new shoots of coconut palm leaves  
and take them to church to have them blessed.

The celebration recalls the solemn entry of Christ into Jerusalem.  
After attending Mass and special prayer services in the church,  
children return to their homes and  
distribute the leaves to the people in their villages.