

## Bishop and the Church on Move

### *Bishop in Vellore on the Road - Identifying with the vulnerable and marginalised on the Palm Sunday (05.04.2020) as a reflection and an experience*



As a first servant of my CSI Diocese of Vellore, I have been going through lot of pain, agony and anguish over the unprecedented crisis caused by the COVID 19 pandemic. With a great struggle within myself, I sent the advisory to all my Presbyters and Lay Leaders to close down the churches for gatherings and worship services. I cannot imagine the way we are placed in the Holy week.

However, I took it on me to be with the suffering lot on this day of celebration of Palm Sunday, for the impending deliverance of this crisis contextually.

We arranged a kit containing 3kg of rice, other groceries and variety of vegetables to last for 4 to 5 days and gave to 25 migrant workers identified through local sources. We also arranged through local church leaders and gave away thousand masks, hand sanitizers, soaps, detergent powder packets to nearly 500 people majority of them are marginalized slum dwellers and street vegetable vendors.

This process started from 8:00 am and lasted till 10:30 am which usually is our worship time. I had to wipe the tears of few migrant workers and it was a touching moments. We did not gather as a crowd. We spread the timing and people.

We cry "HOSANNA" along with the crowd who triumphantly journeyed with our saviour to Jerusalem.





We thank God for the blessing to be with the suffering lot on this Palm Sunday.

I have handful to do along with Rev. Fernandez, other lay leaders, Mrs. Jessie Sophia, Bishopamma and my son Mariyan for the whole day.

"Hosanna ... Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David. Hosanna...in the highest"

Church in the Market place is the message of Palm Sunday. Amen

**Rt. Rev. H. Sharma Nithiyanandam**

**CSI Bishop in Vellore**