



# PROCESSIONS

By Geoff Serpell

In the very old days, feasts and festivals were regular events in the Jewish nation, some civil and some religious in nature.

The Hebrew word for pilgrimage was reserved for three annual feasts, while there was an annual pilgrimage which became a “processional” from towns and cities to the Temple.

There at the Temple, the nation of Israel remembered the past and renewed its faith in the Lord.

Modern day processions which readily come to mind include: the annual ANZAC day march to the shrine. Past and present military personnel from all the armed

services take part in the march which culminates in a service to honour those who grow not old and have made the ultimate sacrifice in a theatre of war. Olympic teams drawn from around the world come together each four years in an opening ceremony by processing into an arena, one country at a time.

It was the prophet and priest, Zechariah who was born in Babylon and returned to Judah in 538bc and is quoted in the OT book of Zechariah 9:9 “Rejoice greatly... See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

## *Reflection:*

*God, your son's cross brings us life and hope. As we begin Holy Week and recall Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, may he enter our hearts and walk with us, help us and guide us. Keep us faithful in our walk with Jesus.*