

2-252/81

PALM SUNDAY - - Picturesque annual ceremony of blessing the palms observed outside Westminster Cathedral.

-London-

Picture.:-

The celebration of Palm Sunday at Westminster Cathedral never fails to be reverently impressive, even to those who are only--

--curious observers. For the devout, it is more than an impressive ceremony. It is the reliving in imagination of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, which triumph was--

--so soon to be followed by his brutal Crucifixion. In the absence of Cardinal Bourne, the Bishop of London conducts the ceremony, in the presence, as is usual, of a vast congregation.

These palms symbolize those others which elders and children joyfully cast--

--on the streets of the Holy City, as a carpet for--

--the progress of the Prophet who was to be their Saviour. This all recalls the original events which have held millions enthralled for two thousand years and which through the ages have been the key-stone in the Arch of the Christian faith.