



Holy Week
&
The Passion of Our Lord

As we enter this most Sacred Week in human history I am very mindful of all those who are fearful, uncertain and anxious at this time.

We are going through an experience we could never have imagined for ourselves, even a couple of weeks ago.

We have seen many changes and have been shocked at the closing of our church buildings. It is hard to imagine what it will be like to celebrate our Easter ceremonies behind locked doors.

This being physically cut-off even from our faith community can intensify our sense of being isolated from one another.

But, let us take hope, courage and peace from the events that this week recalls for all of us.

Christ was rejected, even by those for whom He had performed miracles and had done great works.

He was misunderstood by His closest friends and abandoned, even denied, by some of them. The Lord endured great suffering and must have felt very alone at times, isolated from all who had followed Him.

But there was one certainty which He clung to and from which He gained great strength and comfort.

He KNEW that He was not alone. Even in the face of rejection and fear, Christ knew that the Father was with Him always and in all things.

The world hid its face from Jesus but He could stare into the Father's eyes and know He was not alone, that He was loved with a **'love beyond all telling'**.

In the face of all that is happening in our world at present we can feel isolated and alone but we must take great comfort and strength from the message of Holy Week, from the message of the Passion of Our Lord.

***We too, stare into the Father's face.
We too are greeted by Him with a look of
unutterable love and tenderness.***

We are not alone in these uncertainties, anxieties and fears.

We are sharing in the sufferings of Christ and are being asked to unite what we are going through to the Passion of Jesus.

The events of that great week were a cause of suffering but they did not end with suffering. They unfolded to reveal the glory of the Eternal Father and were a source of eternal life for the whole world.

Our uniting current suffering with Christ's passion will result in exactly the same thing. Let us give to the Lord our uncertainties, our anxieties and our fears. Hand them over to Him that He might nail them to the Cross with Him.

More importantly, let us give to Christ our faith and ask that He increase what faith we have.

Let us use this week to pray even more earnestly for our world, for the conversion of others and for an end to this pandemic. Remember, the events of this week ended in LIFE and so too will the experiences we are going through.

We are not alone. God walks with us in every experience of every day and He is leading us to His glory now.

Give thanks for all the good that is being done and let us try and add to it.

Have a truly Blessed, a Spirit-filled and peace-filled Holy Week. May these days be a time of great grace and renewal for all of us.

Take Heart and be of Good Cheer.

Christ is victorious over this world.

Fr. Martin Donnelly P.P.