



GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday

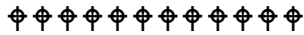
April 10, 2019

Anglican Parish of Raymond Terrace
www.stjohnsraymondterrace.org

GOOD FRIDAY

Pray

May I speak to you in the name of GOD – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen



The central theme for Good Friday has to be the Cross. It is the narration of the events leading to the crucifixion – historically from John’s Gospel. JESUS suffered a terrible death, was taken from us and then nailed to a cross – BUT He rose again on the 3rd day. COVID19 has taken many things from us and, while we will come through this, we will rise to a new life which will be different; but it will certainly take more than 3 days.

Perhaps we may feel like we have been robbed. This pandemic has stolen graduation ceremony experiences for many including some of our newly ordained priests in this Diocese who have been prevented from travelling to Melbourne to collect their degree personally. Also, it has affected weddings, attendance at funerals; taken dreams from athletes training for the Olympics; and taken jobs and businesses from people. In the Bible, Passover was

a holiday designed to celebrate Israel's deliverance from Egypt and to remind the people of what GOD had done. Holidays can be important today, too, as annual reminders of what GOD has done for us.

"It's interesting that in the Bible, Jesus doesn't ask us to remember His birth or His resurrection, although we know we should; but He tells us to remember His death. When He instituted the Lord's Supper, He said, *'This do in remembrance of Me.'* (Luke 22:19 KJV)

The cross, as we know, is an instrument of death. So why glory in it? Because of what took place there. When Jesus said, *'It is finished,'* all our sins from the cradle to the grave were paid for. So, the cross is God's first and last word when it comes to salvation. It's His first word because the book of Revelation tells us: Jesus was *'the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.'* (Revelation 13:8 KJV) And the cross is God's last word about salvation, for in Heaven they will sing of JESUS, *'You were slain, and by Your blood You*

ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.’ (Revelation 5:9 ESV)

From the Word for today recently:

“There is no ‘plan B’ for salvation. The only road that goes to Heaven goes through Calvary. We can’t bypass the cross or go around it if we want to be saved. The Bible says, ‘Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.’ (Hebrews 9:22 ESV) As we look at the cross today, we’ll see the *curse* of sin, the *cost* of sin, and the *cure* for sin. And as we look at the cross, we need to remind ourselves that: ‘JESUS did it for us.’”¹

“In his letter to the Galatians at chapter 6:14, Paul said, ‘*God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.*’ The cross is so important to our faith. In his early ministry, when Billy Graham preached to a great crowd in Dallas, Texas, there was very little response to his message. As he was leaving

¹ <https://vision.org.au/the-word-for-today/2020/04/08/the-importance-of-the-cross-1/> Date accessed 9/4/20

the platform, an old man told him, ‘Your message was good, but you didn’t preach the cross.’

Billy went to his room, he wept, and he resolved, ‘There will never be a sermon that I preach unless the cross is central.’ Starting that day, God used him to win more people to Christ than almost any other preacher in history. There’s just enough ego in each of us to want to ‘contribute’ to our salvation by doing good works. But we cannot.

The hymn-writer Robert Lowry wrote: ‘What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. Oh, precious is the flow that makes me white as snow. No other fount I know; nothing but the blood of Jesus.’”²

It may feel that currently there is no light at the end of the COVID19 tunnel but there is something we need to remember. In an article called “GOOD FRIDAY IN A TIME OF PESTILENCE” Cistercian monk, Fr Michael Casey said:

² <https://vision.org.au/the-word-for-today/2020/04/09/the-importance-of-the-cross-2/> Date accessed 9/4/20

“We are CHRIST’s body...we are called to enter a more abundant life through the portal of death. In the paradoxical providence of GOD, the seed must fall to the ground and die before it bears fruit. Just as we pray that the exposure of the scandals of sexual abuse and manifold corruption will lead to a purified and self-reforming Church, so may we dare to hope that this pandemic will kindle in us, and in GOD’s faithful people, a recognition of their need for GOD and a willingness to cry out for help...that GOD will empower us all to pass from these dark days of difficulty and doubt to a living hope that exposes us all to the glory and power of the risen CHRIST.”³



May we pray:

Eternal and ever-living GOD, you have redeemed us from all sin through the suffering and death of your only Son, JESUS CHRIST. Grant that we may be faithful members of a new communion of love and mercy

³ <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/03/25/coronavirus-robbed-us-all-no-olympics-no-school-no-celebrations/2901073001/> Date accessed 9/4/2020

through the grace of the same LORD JESUS CHRIST,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen