

Homily. Good Friday. 19 April 2019.

Our lives are full of distractions. Believe me when I say that I really do understand why this is so. Reality can be harsh, and we human beings can only stand so much of it without losing our minds. Today, however, isn't the time for us to be distracted. Instead, this is the perfect moment, God's chosen hour for standing before reality looking at it clearly with God's eyes and seeing it for what it really and truly is. This is the day when we get to look right into God, right inside of God's mind and heart. This is the time when we're able to grasp the very source of reality discovering, despite our fears and uncertainties that it's all about us and our world's salvation, by love and in love. This is what makes today a truly great and Good Friday for us all.

We know that we respect and honour those who lay down their lives for us; people like Emergency workers, health professionals and persons who bear arms in our defence, as well as those who know us and still choose to love us so generously and unconditionally; our parents, families, partners and closest friends. People such as these will sacrifice for us, risk harm for us and sometimes they'll even lay down their lives in order to keep us safe and whole. When this happens they become our saviours and heroes and for them we hold an ongoing debt of gratitude.

What we see today in the Crucified Christ is an innocent man who endured all of the injustice that we and the harsh realities of our world could muster and who, despite this, chose to put us and our good first. What we feel through the dry, dead wood of Cross is the warmth of the

life of Jesus Christ flowing into our worried minds and fearful hearts, washing us clean of our isolation and despair. For us He has faced our reality at its most awful, overcoming it by the only thing that ever could, the power of His love witnessed in His choice to lay down of His life for you and for me. On His Cross Jesus, the broken, emptied out man, reveals to us God's reality as one of unconditional loving and unbreakable fidelity for the saving of our lives and for the renewal of this world.

Right now I don't think that you need more words from me. What's needed now is something from all of us, our actions and our response of thanksgiving, honour, prayer and faith. We'll show these things in a few minutes when we walk forwards to venerate the Cross and our Saviour who, for us, was hung upon it, and later to welcome Him in communion.

Jesus chose to take on the reality and form of this barren wood and bitter death, changing it for us into the tree of life and the axis of God's reality around which the entire universe now revolves. In doing so He's given to us His power as the way of converting our fears into faith, our prejudices into understanding and our hating into unselfish loving. By His great Good Friday gift the Son has placed the Father God where God rightly belongs, at the very centre of our reality which at its core is always caring, generously merciful and unremittingly kind to all those who turn to Him.