

Homily. Good Friday. Solemn Commemoration. 15/4/2022.

In words and prayers and through various actions, symbols and gestures today's liturgy speaks for itself. It tells us that we are commemorating the Lord's Passion, and what a powerful passion He had and still has for us!

Living without a passion for someone or something is merely drudgery, a getting through each day until sleep claims us. Yet, God knows, this is what so many of us by choice or by circumstance end up doing. Jesus lived with passion for us, with a powerful love, hope and generosity that can set our own passion for what is good, right, just and true on fire.

If we will only let Him into our lives every day as our Lord and guide then He can liberate us from the monotony of the mundane, giving us a desire and an energy to live passionately, to live our lives as fully as God wants for us. It was to open up this possibility, this salvation for us, that he chose to lay down His life on the dead wood of the Cross, with His own blood wetting that wood until it changed into the tree of life and grace.

Now, we can eat the fruit of this tree for free, the fruit of meaning, hope, purpose and joy, the fruit of His love and sacrifice. We do this in a way that is something like, but much greater than the way that we live our lives today because of the loving sacrifices of those who have gone before us. I say like, but much greater than, because the passion of Christ for us is the passion of God's great Divine love, unconquerable and eternal as we'll learn in the coming Easter event tomorrow night and Sunday morning.

Where to, then, for us from here? Well, simply respect, adoration, humility with a keener desire to make the freedom of the Lord's passion and the fruit it has borne our own. We do this by our refreshing our faith in His power and passion to save us from the darkness around us and the deadness within us.

The blood and water from His torn heart has been spilt, witnessed as it splashed across the dry wood and onto the barren earth; God's blood of love and the Divine water of new life, the price of having a passion for us and the source of our passion for each other and for this world's good.

Now, around His Cross the universe pivots, and to this tree sprouting its new green leaves we are called to come. Let's take the gifts that the Lord's death offers to us, making them our own so that we, too, burn as He did with a passion for what is really and truly best for our world and for all of its peoples, our sisters and brothers in Him who died for us all.