

DAYS OF EASTER 2018



*"You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified.
He has been raised; he is not here."*

FROM THE READINGS HOLY THURSDAY

John 13:12-15

So when he had washed their feet and put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, "Do you realise what I have done for you? You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am.

If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do."

GOOD FRIDAY

Isaiah 53:4-5

Yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured, while we thought of him as stricken, as one smitten by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins; upon him was the punishment that makes us whole, by his wounds we were healed.

EASTER SUNDAY

Gospel Mk 16:2-7

Very early, when the sun had risen on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb. They were saying to one another, "Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back; it was very large. On entering the tomb they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe, and they were utterly amazed.

He said to them, "Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Behold the place where they laid him. But go and tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you.'"



FROM POPE FRANCIS

Life nowadays tells us that it is much easier to concentrate on what divides us, what keeps us apart. People try to make us believe that being closed in on ourselves is the best way to keep safe from harm. Today, we adults need you to teach us, as you are doing today, how to live in diversity, in dialogue, to experience multiculturalism not as a threat but an opportunity. You are an opportunity for the future ... Have the courage to teach us; have the courage to show us that it is easier to build bridges than walls!

Pope Francis in Dear Young Friends, 29

There is always a risk ... of offering your hand and no one taking it. But in life we need to take a risk, for the person who does not take a risk never wins. With this bridge we can move forwards. Here, this is the primordial bridge: take each other's hand.

Pope Francis in Dear Young Friends, 29

REFLECTIONS

Goodness and joy can come beyond suffering. By his wounds we are healed. Through washing another's feet, in humility and love, serving and caring for them, we ourselves can find new life and joy! Death is not the end. Death is a doorway to eternal life. Then, we will be held forever in the arms of the One who loved us into being! How strange, illogical – and wonderful!

If only we Christians, charged with the terrible responsibility of bearing the name of Christ, if only we could at least really behave like brothers and sisters ... What a responsibility we have!

Dom Helder Camara, Essential Writings, 136

Today Christ tells us it isn't enough to distribute bread to those who haven't got any. The essential thing is to work toward the creation of a more just world, in which there will no longer be a minority owning too much, among such multitudes of hungry people.

Dom Helder Camara, Essential Writings, 159

I am utterly convinced that human beings have hungers and thirsts that can never be completely appeased here on earth. Hunger for truth, hunger for beauty, hunger for goodness, for the absolute, for the infinite, for the eternal ... why did anyone need to demonstrate God's existence? It seemed transparently obvious that the Lord is there. It seems to me equally obvious that we are destined for eternity.

Dom Helder Camara, Essential Writings, 166

We believe in the ultimate redeeming power of love, and in the power of a love beyond our own that can do that redeeming. God's love ... can go through locked doors, enter closed hearts, and breathe peace and new life into frightened paralysed persons.

Ronald Rolheiser, Prayer Our Deepest Longing, 61

And one day, when the Lord sees fit, this living spirit will retake shape, retake body, in some way we cannot imagine, any more than a newborn child can imagine the kind of body it will have at twenty. But we shall recognise one another. Eternity would be unacceptable, unnatural, if, having known and recognised one another on this earth, we weren't to know and recognise and love one another on the new earth, in the new heaven.

Dom Helder Camara, Essential Writings, 167

In God there is no succession of yesterday, today, or tomorrow. In him there is only today, always the same and always new. In God there is no routine, no repetition ... We have been called to life by God.

Dom Helder Camara, Essential Writings, 173

FOR THINKING AND TALKING

For Thinking and Praying:

From your reading: What stands out or 'speaks' to you?

Translate to life:

In recent times,

- when have you experienced joy?
- when have you experienced love?
- when have you felt gratitude?

Express the heart:

Find words or an image for

- Insights gained from these readings and reflections
- A hope or intention for the future.

PRAYER

Risen One,
come, meet me
in the garden of my life.

Resurrected One,

May I become
ever more convinced
that your presence lives on,
and on, and on,
and on.

Awaken me!

Awaken me!

Adapted from 'Awaken Me', Joyce Rupp, Out of the Ordinary, 70



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