

Catholic Church of the Presentation - Montana

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The Cross and Crisis

G. K. Chesterton once said, "men invent new ideals because they dare not attempt old ideals."

Good Friday gives the ascent of Jesus to Jerusalem its full meaning and significance in our lives. Jesus suffers and dies on the cross for identifying himself as the Messiah. Isaiah's suffering servant refers to Christ, whose posterity is his triumph over death. God is able to maintain His calm in the face of tragedy but we rail against Him when life gets tough and no one seems to come to our aid; "do you not care that we are perishing" Mk. 4:38. We are invited to revisit our relationship with God, our neighbour and ourselves on this day more than any other.

Relationships suffer because of lack of trust. Adam and Eve became suspicious of God and their relationship with Him shattered. Humanity needed someone who could reconcile us to God and remind us that we are constantly being formed, informed and reformed in Jesus. By his wounds we are healed, Is. 53:5. The evil one is always challenging us to renounce our crosses. Let us not forget that the cross has a story behind it. It contained God's plan of salvation for the human race. No amount of pain deterred Jesus from dying on the tree of the cross.

Sometimes, we get discouraged when the going gets tough and no one seems to notice our pain. Perhaps it is important that we pause for a moment and remind ourselves: crosses are intersections of wills. Which will I follow? God's or mine? When we subtract God's will, we make the cross personal but when we embrace His will it is the cross of Christ. May we re-ignite our trust in God this lent by keeping our eyes on the crosses in our homes, lives and country.

The best is yet to come!

Fr Sam Madza SMA

GOOD FRIDAY

So we are unable to participate in the two key spiritual journeys of Catholics on this Good Friday, but we can use this time in a very meaningful way by connecting with Catholic church communities via the internet or on radio for The Way of the Cross or the Good Friday Liturgy

"STATIONS of the Cross is a devotion, especially during Lent, which prayerfully recalls the last stage of the journey that Jesus walked in his earthly life: from his death sentence by Pontius Pilate until he was taken to Golgotha, to be crucified and then buried in a garden nearby, in a new tomb hewn out of the rock.

The Stations of the Cross help us, the faithful, to make a spiritual pilgrimage of prayer, through meditating upon the chief scenes of Christ's sufferings and death. It has become one of the most popular devotions for Catholics, and is often performed in a spirit of reparation for the sufferings and insults that Jesus endured during his Passion

FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

On Good Friday the liturgical service has as its centre John's narrative of the Passion of Him who was portrayed in Isaiah as the Servant of Yahweh and who became the one High Priest by offering himself to the Father.

The Church celebrates the redemptive death of Christ on Good Friday. We commence with a silent procession and the priest prostrates himself before the altar whilst the congregation kneels. We meditate on the Lord's Passion in the afternoon liturgical action, in which we pray for the salvation of the world, we adore (venerate) the Cross and we commemorate the very origin of the Church in the sacred wound in Christ's side. We conclude by sharing in a spiritual the Eucharist

Suggestions for participating in Holy Week Liturgy during this time of lockdown

- **Radio Veritas** : 576AM and on DSTV Audio Channel 870 Live Streaming: www.radioveritas.co.za
- Jesuit Institute: www.jesuitinstitute.org.za **Live Streaming** , Good Friday at 15h00 and Easter Sunday at 09h00
- "Catholic Mass Today" from Ontario Canada : www.dailytvmass.com

Let us pray the 10 solemn intercessions for Good Friday in our Missals and for our own personal intentions during this time of trial.

Parish Bank Account for regular pledges and EFT : Bank: Standard Bank, Montana Kolonnade Beneficiary: THE CHURCH OF THE PRESENTATION
Account number: 013157108 Reference : Allocated Pledge number or anonymous if preferred.