

The Narrow Road

The grave is a narrow place, and to suffer is distressing; but this is the narrow road that leads to life. The Scriptures, first of all, and then the saints and mystics, vouch for this. First the narrow way, then the opening out. Here are a few of the many texts that illustrate this:

King David wrote,

He brought me forth into a large place. (Ps 18:19)

St Matthew wrote:

The gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life. (Mt 7:14)

Meister Eckhart said,

"The more the soul is collected [focused], the narrower she is, and the narrower, the wider."

Madame Guyon, the 18th-century French mystic, wrote,

"How very narrow is the gate which leads to a life in God! – and how little one must be to pass through it; it is nothing else but death to self! But when we have passed through it, what enlargement we find!"

Her mentor, Bishop Fénelon, wrote,

"When we are faithful in instantly dropping all superfluous and restless reflections, which arise from a self-love that is totally different from charity, we shall be set in a large place even in the midst of the strait and narrow path."

He also wrote,

"We are in a narrow place, indeed, when we are enclosed in self, but when we emerge from that prison, and enter into the immensity of God and the liberty of his children, we are set at large."

A Crucified Church

A Christianity without the Cross has never worked, and it is never likely to. It takes a crucified Church to bring a crucified Christ before the eyes of the world. ■



Summary

The primary Christian interest in Christ is the manner of his death, and that God has raised him from death, giving us the hope of rising with him.

Question

Why does it take a crucified Church to bring a crucified Christ before the eyes of the world?

Prayer

Lord, help me to follow your narrow way.



SUNDAY LETTER

Series: The Seasons; Passion Sunday, Year B; 24 Mar 2024

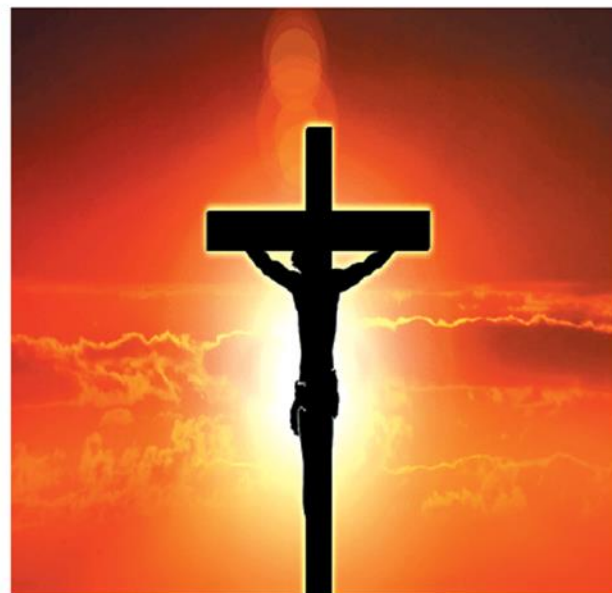
German theologian, Martin Kaeler, described the gospels as "accounts of the death of Jesus, preceded by long introductions."

The essential Christian proclamation is,

"Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again."

Our primary interest in Christ is the manner of his death, and that God raised him from death, giving us the hope of rising with him.

The cross of Christ has been a potent symbol throughout the ages. Its vertical axis, it is said, joins heaven and earth, and its horizontal axis joins all ages and races of humankind; everything meets in the broken body of Christ.



The Cross of Christ

The Christian faith, without the Cross, is nothing. The Cross tells us that our goodness is not good enough – we cannot 'achieve' God by our own efforts; that would be to possess God as a sort of ornament on a life of achievement. Our ego would indeed love to do this, and it is always ready to imagine that it has, in fact, done so.

A popular writer of spiritual books – books that never mention the Cross of Christ – said in an interview that, for him, the Cross was like a question-mark, or a giant hook, reaching up to heaven for an answer. Christ is not necessary to such a spirituality, so it is well to explore only the aesthetic aspects of the faith. However, St Paul wrote: "we preach Christ crucified" (1 Cor 1:23).



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Vol.46; No.17; Passion Sunday, Year B; 24 Mar 2024; Readings: Isaiah 50:4-7, Psalm 21, Philippians 26-11, Mark 14:1-15:47; Next Week: .

Sat 23 Mar St Turibius de Mongrovejo : Sun 24 Mar Passion Sunday : Mon 25 Mar The Annunciation of the Lord : Tue 26 Mar Weekday : Wed 27 Mar Weekday : Thu 28 Mar Holy Thursday : Fri 29 Mar Good Friday : Sat 30 Mar Holy Saturday : Sun 31 Mar Easter 1.

Our Mother of Divine Grace Church, Ballygall
(1964 – 2024, 60 years as a Parish)

Part of the Glasnevin Partnership of Parishes

(Ballygall, Ballymun Rd, Corpus Christi, Glasnevin & Iona Rd)

24th March 2024 Palm Sunday

Parish Website www.ballygallparish.ie Email ballygallparish@outlook.com

Registered Charity RCN 20016166

Parish Team

Fr. Joseph Ryan Co-P.P: Ph 8573776 Fr. Harry Gaynor Co-P.P: Ph 8342248

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Mass Intentions Holy Week.				
Monday	7.25	John Byrne	10.00	Frank & Kathleen Waters.
Tuesday	7.25	Mary Doyle	10.00	Special Intention "Get Well"
Wednesday	7.25	Margaret & Liam Doheny	10.00	Mary Stein, recently deceased.
	7.30pm	Reconciliation service with the Franciscan Fathers.		
Holy Thursday	10.00am	Funeral Service for Sean O'Connor		
	7.30pm	Evening Mass of the Lords Supper followed by an hour of "Watch & Pray"		
Good Friday	11.15am	Stations of the Cross Family Walk with Jesus		
	3.00pm	Celebration of the Lords Passion		
	7.30pm	Stations of the Cross.		
Holy Saturday	Confessions available 10.30am – 11.30am & 2.00 -3.00pm			
	8.30pm	Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter (Please bring a little bell to ring as we celebrate the risen Lord).		
Easter Sunday	10.00	People of the Parish		
	11.30	People of the Parish		

Recently Deceased

We remember the family and friends of recently deceased Veronica Brennan, Kevin Lynch and Sean O'Connor.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

There will be no Adoration this Thursday. It will resume after Easter.



Lenten Penance Service

With the Franciscan Fathers.

Wednesday 27th March @
7.30pm

Way Of The Cross

The Way of the Cross – led by the meditations of Archbishop Farrell and accompanied by the choir of Communion and Liberation – will be in Dublin's Phoenix Park on Good Friday, March 29, at midday. The procession will proceed from the Wellington Monument to the Papal Cross. For more information please contact info@clireland.com or visit <https://ie.clonline.org/>.

Dublin Diocesan Knock Pilgrimage

Archbishop Dermot Farrell will lead our annual pilgrimage to Knock on **Saturday, April 27th**. This year we are celebrating 145 years since the apparition in 1879.

Our Lady of Victories is organising a bus on the day. Leaving OLV at 7.45am, bring a packed lunch; leaving Knock 4.30pm after the Mass. Cost is €25. Contact Grainne 8420346 weekdays 10 – 1pm. See olv.ie for more details

Good Friday

Way of the Cross Walk
March 29th

(Organised by the Glasnevin Partnership of Parishes).

Stations of the Cross and Veneration.

Starting at 11.15am

Mother of Divine Grace Church on to

St Mobhi, Church of Ireland, Glasnevin, Finishing at

Holy Faith Convent, Glasnevin. (12.30pm approx.).

All are welcome.

Lourdes Kindness Pilgrimage To Lourdes

Invalid Pilgrimage (Nurses and Carers in attendance). 26th June 2024 5 Nights full board. Special Subsidised Fare €899 pps. Non Refundable Deposit €300. Savings Club available. For further information and booking form please contact Terry Clarke 01 8348549 or 087 4129792 (after 6pm & weekends). www.joewalshstours.ie