

GOOD FRIDAY 2024

“Near the cross of Jesus Stood his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas,
and Mary of Magdala”

The crucifixion of Our Lord Jesus Christ is for us one of the most significant points in history.
This Barbaric act was an open consequence of the arrogance and fear of all the peoples.

At the Foot of the cross stood his Mother.

We have at the moment daily reports of the suffering, the crucifixion of the peoples of
Palestine, Gaza. We learn almost daily of the waste and destruction of the Ukraine. Then the
totally stupid conflict in the Sudan, creating famine from political instability. Spreading the
Cancer of War in the whole region.

In the face of such pain, on this day when we celebrate the sacrifice and death of Christ
Jesus.

We can perceive the grief, and feel so very weak.

At the Foot of the cross stood his Mother.

As a priest I am honoured to witness suffering, which is the consequence of love. Those who
have shared in the struggle of the illness. I have witnessed those who have watched
confusion slowly take hold. The love then expressed of deeper significance than romantic
novel.

I have seen those for whom circumstance has demanded that they confront the
consequence of tragedy.

Standing beneath the cross.

Helpless, Helpless, Helpless.

At the Foot of the cross stood his Mother.

As Roman Catholics we do not pretend that suffering does not exist

As Roman Catholics perhaps our most obvious symbol of faith is in fact the cross.

The Crucifix

That much as our faith is also in the resurrection

We do not deny the realities of suffering

So what can we do? What can we do?

The greatest wisdom is the wisdom of humility

The Humility of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The humility of the Mother of God

Who stood at the foot of the cross

Who shared the pain

Who expressed the love

Those poor families in Palestine. Those poor starving children in the Sudan. Those poor Ukrainian mothers frightened of the news of their sons.

Feeling helpless. Helpless, Helpless.

Humility

Thus here I am

At the foot of this cross

With Mary the Mother of God

I can do little

What little I can do, let it be done

Then trust in God

It is enough

Watching someone I love die. Trying to deal practically with visits of nurses, or doctors or equipment to make the day easier. Accepting that the memory is fading and dealing with the awful questions in my head. Collapsing in private fear before the panic of catastrophe.

Feeling helpless. Helpless, Helpless.

Humility

Thus here I am

At the foot of this cross

With Mary the Mother of God

I can do little

What little I can do, let it be done

Then trust in God

It is enough

I am not God

I am here

And all that I can give is so small

You are not God

You are here

And all that you can give is small

Humility

Humility

Humility

Stand with the blessed Virgin Mary

Do what little you can

And trust

Hope

Live

In the love of God