

Readings:

Psalm 71

John 12:20 – 36

²⁰ Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' ²² Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³ Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

²⁷ 'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—"Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' ²⁹ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' ³⁰ Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹ Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' ³³ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. ³⁴ The crowd answered him, 'We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains for ever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?' ³⁵ Jesus said to them, 'The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. ³⁶ While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.'

After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them.

Reflection for Holy Tuesday 2020

“Now my soul is troubled...”

How do you feel when you read these words of Jesus today, this week, in this situation that we find ourselves? I don't know about you, but to me they are comforting. They are comforting, because they affirm how Jesus was not only Divine but fully human. He knows and understands what it means to have troubled heart.

If all of this Covid-19 has been a little distant to us, something we obviously hear on the news and so on, but stark reality hasn't touched us, our families, our communities. Perhaps we have treated all of it a bit like, 'But I'm going to go out and do this and that... I can't just stay in because...' – Well, I am sure that hearing the news that our Prime Minister has been moved into the intensive care unit, makes it all more real. We cannot escape from the harsh reality of this virus. We cannot stay indifferent. And because of that our souls are more troubled than they may have been so far. Anxiousness, fear and deep sorrow is settling into our souls.

Yet amidst of all the turmoil, Jesus' honest feelings are comforting. Jesus understands and stands with us when we face situations that causes us to question deeply whether we have strength or courage to get through them. Jesus knows how it feels like to not want to walk through the valley of the shadow of the death. He felt it all and yet he walked it for us when he did his journey towards the cross.

So as we continue our journey with Jesus this holiest of Holy Week, let us remember that whatever we feel, experience and go through, we are not walking alone but Jesus by our side. So, let this prayer be with us all today:

*Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.
Amen.*

From St Patrick's Breastplate