

Passion Sunday Homily

The Passion story may sound merely as a sad story of trial, injustice, suffering and death, but it is a story of love; even though a painful love.

Love and suffering are not strongly associated in our minds and hearts as it used to be in the past. My mother still says when she has some pain that this probably happening, so that someone else may benefit from it spiritually. Secularism suggests that we should avoid suffering at any cost or if we suffer it is a sign of failure, a sign of lack of God's favour.

Yet today we celebrate suffering, when we celebrate Jesus' unjust trial, suffering and death. It is important to remember why we do this, so that we stop thinking about these as signs of failure, or signs lack of God's favour, and realise that there is light in darkness; a light which guides us and encourages us and gives us strength until we arrive at our heavenly Father's home.

What was the light in the Passion story: Jesus himself, the very fact that He undertook to enter into the darkness of Palm Sunday. This means that He knows what you go through when you are accused unjustly, when you are mocked, humiliated, and even abandoned by your friends. He is there. His light was also the knowledge that this was the Father's plan for our sake. He believed in it, obeyed Him and submitted himself to Him. This was His light. But above all He was filled with the light of the Holy Spirit, without whom He wouldn't have been able to go through the darkness. He gave Him the strength to carry on and ignore what the public and the authorities thought of him and to bear his own pain in his own body and spirit.

Thus Jesus has changed the meaning of suffering and turned it into a means of saving humanity from the bondage of sin; of which we see so many examples in today's society. The one who walks in the darkness and believes that Christ is there, that person is not afraid, and the one who is not afraid is free to do the heavenly Father's loving will.