

# “Dying To Live” Home Mission Sunday 2006



## Prayers of the Faithful

*These intercessions are offered as suggestions. Please feel free to choose from them and adapt them to your local community and its needs. This document is available in MS Word if you would prefer to download the text directly and edit as required for your parish. Please see [www.caseresources.org.uk](http://www.caseresources.org.uk)*

**Priest:** *Let us raise our hopes and our concerns to the Father of love, through Christ our Saviour and in the power of the Holy Spirit.*

We pray for the whole Church: bishops, priests, religious and lay-people.

*[pause]*

May all the faithful take up their proper responsibility and participate in the evangelising mission of Christ.

Lord hear us, **Lord graciously hear us**

We pray for all followers of Christ.

*[pause]*

May we take up the Cross and live, celebrate and share His good news.

Lord hear us, **Lord graciously hear us**

As we celebrate Home Mission Sunday, we pray for CASE, the Catholic Agency to Support Evangelisation.

*[pause]*

May they enthuse Catholics for mission, equip us for evangelisation, and help us engage with the cultures of England and Wales so we can live our faith in a changing world.

Lord hear us, **Lord graciously hear us**

We pray for those who suffer for the Gospel.

*[pause]*

May their efforts and sacrifices bear fruit for the Kingdom.

Lord hear us, **Lord graciously hear us**

We pray for our neighbours, our friends, our families and our work colleagues.

*[pause]*

May we love them more generously so they may see Christ more clearly in our lives.

Lord hear us, **Lord graciously hear us**

For those we know who are in pain, or who have been injured in body, mind or spirit.

*[pause]*

May they experience the comfort and healing of Christ.

Lord hear us, **Lord graciously hear us**

We pray for those who have died, especially... *[insert the names of parishioners]*

*[pause]*

May they know the fullness of life in God's presence.

Lord hear us, **Lord graciously hear us**

We join our prayers with those of Our Lady, Star of the New Evangelisation,

**Hail Mary ...**

**Priest:** *Father of all love and mercy, accept the prayers that we make through Christ our Lord, **AMEN***

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## Homily Notes

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Every Sunday liturgy we enter into the Easter Mysteries. We gather before the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ, we are transformed by that encounter, and we are sent out to share that transformation with people in God's world. The death and resurrection of the Lord is the ground reality of the Christian life and the core of the evangelising mission of the Church. Our commitment to evangelisation in England and Wales is a participation in Christ's work of love. We are loved and we are commissioned to share that love with others.

### **Isaiah 50:5-9**

This passage is usually included in the list of what are called “Songs of the Suffering Servant”. These portray a saviour figure who takes to Himself the pain and woundedness of the community in order to bring redemption. Christians have always seen the person and work of Jesus in these poetic laments - indeed the Gospel accounts of the Lord's passion allude to this and to similar passages, and we use this passage in our Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday) liturgy and a further Servant Song (Is 52-53) on Good Friday. The paradox of salvation is beautifully articulated here: evil doers may mock, violate and attack, but God will vindicate His servant. Christ's obedience unto death enables us to receive from the divine life.

### **Psalms 116 (114)**

The same pattern is emphasised in the Psalm. The Psalmist suffers and faces death, but the Lord rescues him. God hears his distress and acts to rescue him. In thankfulness the Psalmist offers sacrifice and praise. In every Mass we give thanks to God for His mighty deeds in our redemption. We plead the sacrifice of Christ and we know ourselves to be rescued. As Christ's redeemed people, part of that offering is to give public praise to the Lord and to invite others to share in this wonderful good news.

### **James 2:14-18**

James underscores the need to live out our faith in action. He demands that our discipleship is a concrete practical religion. The needs of the poor have a particular priority. Our faith is not just a personal decision, not even just attending in the rituals and worship of the community. It is expressed in what we do in God's world. Claiming faith without doing good deeds is dead, it gives the lie to what we claim and brings disrepute onto our community. Our acts of love flow from the love and mercy we receive.

### **Mark 8:27-35**

In this hinge passage in Mark's Gospel, Jesus is recognised as the Messiah, the anointed one, the Christ. Peter speaks out loud who he has discovered Jesus to be. However, Peter still has more to learn. He finds it difficult to accept that the Messiah will suffer grievously, be rejected and be put to death. He argues with Jesus. But Jesus asserts that God's way of saving people is for Jesus to suffer, die and rise again. It is God's way that makes sense and which will lead to life and glory, the human way that Peter propounds will lead to destruction and death. Our mission is to live out God's way in the world which proves to be the most profound key to unlock the mystery of humanity. We are to know Jesus and to proclaim His Lordship in our words and in our deeds.

Now more than ever people do not know Who Jesus is, what He has done for them or how much He loves them. Every Christian is challenged by the Lord to answer for herself or himself the question “Who do you say that I am?” Is Jesus a guilty secret, a private friend we wouldn't dare introduce to our family, friends and work colleagues? Jesus is “the way, the truth and the life” (John 14:6). Our calling in our times is to journey along His way, “walking in His presence” (Ps 114(116):9) in our communities, to proclaim His truth in season and out of season, and to live His life of sacrificial love for the sake of the Gospel.