

April 2017 – Issue 69

'OUR FATHER'

THE HOST APOSTOLATE
www.thehostapostolate.org

14, GOATBECK TERRACE,
LANGLEY MOOR,
COUNTY DURHAM DH7 8JJ

thehostapostolate@gmail.com

Nearing the end of Lent we can look forward to the great feast of Easter and the Glory of the Risen Lord made manifest. But before this we must still go through the Agony of the passion in Holy Week. And go into that week with hearts full of love and compassion for Our Redeemer who willingly and freely underwent that agony on our behalf. He did so for every one of us individually. How truly deep was His suffering and torment but how the Father did not desert Him and along the way gave Him encouragement, through the women, faithful St John, Mary His Mother, Veronica and countless other small gestures of Love from many.

But one thing struck me greatly and that is how completely he lived out the prayer, the 'Our Father'. In those last days of His life in each phrase, each prayer became fulfilled not just in word but in deed. Jesus lived out the prayer that he taught us all to pray...

Our Father... Jesus reminded us that God the Father is not only His Father but also our Father. How often in those last days did he raise His mind and heart to the Father. While before Pilate he reminded Pilate that he would not have any authority had it not been given to him from above. He reminded him that His Kingship was not of this world.

Our Father who art in heaven... He lifted His eyes to heaven as he prayed, as he took bread and wine at the last supper transforming it into His Body and Blood. In Gethsemane he cried out 'Father let this chalice pass from Me' and again on the Cross 'Father into your hands I commend my Spirit' a prayer to His heavenly Father. His Father in Heaven is Our Father and do we lift up our thought and deed to him..., the things that we find difficult and when we pray this prayer.

Hallowed be Thy Name... Jesus said that only his Father was holy when he himself was called good. The reverence that he had for His Father was complete. When asked by the mother of James and John whether they could be favoured to sit at Jesus'

right and left he reminded her that the right belonged to the Father only. He also attributed knowledge of the future coming of Jesus to Him (date and time).

Jesus was obedient to His Father always emphasising that he had come just to do that. He honoured His Father and directed all His prayer in this direction. There were many healing when Jesus always seem to pray first, in word or gesture, to His Father

The Kingdom that Jesus came to establish was one that would continue in heaven, he showed us how to establish that kingdom of love and service, giving us many teaching and actions that brought it about... It was not just an earthly Kingdom. .. He answered Pilate who challenged His Kingship with 'My Kingdom does not belong to this world; if My kingdom belonged to this world My followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish authorities. No, My Kingdom does not belong here (John 18 35-37).

Perhaps it is the next words heard so of often during Holy week that we see how truly Jesus was surrendered to His Father and His will was only to do what the father willed.

'**Thy will be done**'... What fantastic word these are. How utterly and completely Jesus lived these words and in all his actions to the very last he fulfilled them...

Indeed the words carry Jesus through the Agony in the Garden right through to his trial and suffering, right the way to Calvary and the Cross. Truly he not only wanted to do His Fathers **will in heaven** but also here on earth. So the words ...'**be done on earth** emphasised that His and our obedience starts here and will be completed when we reach heaven. The Father's will becomes complete in Heaven and those with Him, Saints, Martyrs, Angels always fulfil His will in paradise in great rejoicing. The battle and conflicts with human nature on earth will have ended. He was faithful to the Father in that he would not lose 'even one of those given to him here on earth'.. He chided Peter who drew a sword to defend

Him and cut off Malchus' ear. Jesus reproaches him with 'Am I not to drink the cup of suffering that the Father has given me' The Father's will had to be completely followed on Earth.

His final words echo this down the centuries. His dying words were 'Into your hands I commend My Spirit'. The final surrender of himself to His Heavenly Father. The Father to whom he was the Beloved. The Son who totally and completely accepted His mission to redeem mankind and to free us from sin and all that would keep us from holiness and love of God and neighbour.

Jesus came to feed his people the flock that the Father had given him. He not only fed them with the food, natural food from the earliest times in the old testament but also being aware of their hunger as they followed Him, fed them with great abundance in the miracle of the loaves and fishes. But He came to feed people spiritually and said even before the Last Supper... 'man does not live on bread alone but on every word that come from the mouth of God.

'Give us this day our daily bread'... is a profound prayer which remind us in Jesus own words that we are being fed continually by the word of God by His Body and Blood but also naturally. It is interesting to note that he speaks of 'Daily bread.' Bread that is given in ample sufficiency for the day. Enough for that day. A food that nourishes the very fibre of our hearts and souls and bodies. He also calls us to share our food with the hungry. At the last supper he bring the many things that he said about feeding to completeness and blesses and breaks the bread and divides it up. He remind them that he is about to shed His Blood... He first thanks His Father for the gift that he is about to bestow on the Apostles. How trusting and thankful are we that God provided so amply for all our needs.?

Forgiveness... 'Father, forgive them for they no not what they do.'. Words of Jesus from the Cross. Those words so challenging to us to forgive others because we have been forgiven. It is hard to forgive enemies or those who do us wrong but how can we not when we have Jesus example on the Cross. Forgiving others when he was dying and sinless and faultless He did not hold back. In the immensity of His heart He forgave all of us and we have to do the same. His word... 'forgive us our trespasses as we forgive others who trespass against us' is a call to

be open to forgive others.

We will be forgiven if we ask but we have to reciprocate.

But we are frail human beings and so we ask that we are protected from the wiles of satan and his legions. God Does not tempt us but permits trials for us to grow stronger and depend entirely on Him. We pray 'lead us not into temptation BUT deliver us from evil' Jesus call out to His Father for help The Kingdom of God will defeat all that is evil in the fullness of time and we have to trust that it is The Fathers Glory that will become manifest and that we will reign with Him.

As we reach Easter with its new birth and the revelation of Jesus' Resurrection we could put the **Our Father** into practice in our own lives. We could ponder line by line and not to simply 'recite' it so quickly that we loses the sense of its deepest meaning. Jesus lived it and calls us to do the same.

Happy Easter with abundant Joy and Blessings to all!

Halina Holman

Alleluia He is Risen...



'Jesus on the cross feels the whole weight of the evil, and with the force of God's love he conquers it; he defeats it with his resurrection. This is the good that Jesus does for us on the throne of the cross. Christ's cross, embraced with love, never leads to sadness, but to joy, to the joy of having been saved and of doing a little of what he did on the day of his death.'

Pope Francis

Feast Days in April

2nd Fifth Sunday of Lent

9th ... Passion Sunday, Palm Sunday

10th-14th Holy Week and Triduum

Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil

16th...Easter Sunday

23rd Feast of Divine Mercy

Other Feasts... 5th St Vincent Ferrer, 20th St Beuno

21st. St Anselm 24th St George 25th St Mark

28th St Louis de Montfort 29th St Catherine of Siena.