

Easter thoughts from The Camino Chaplaincy - Easter 2020

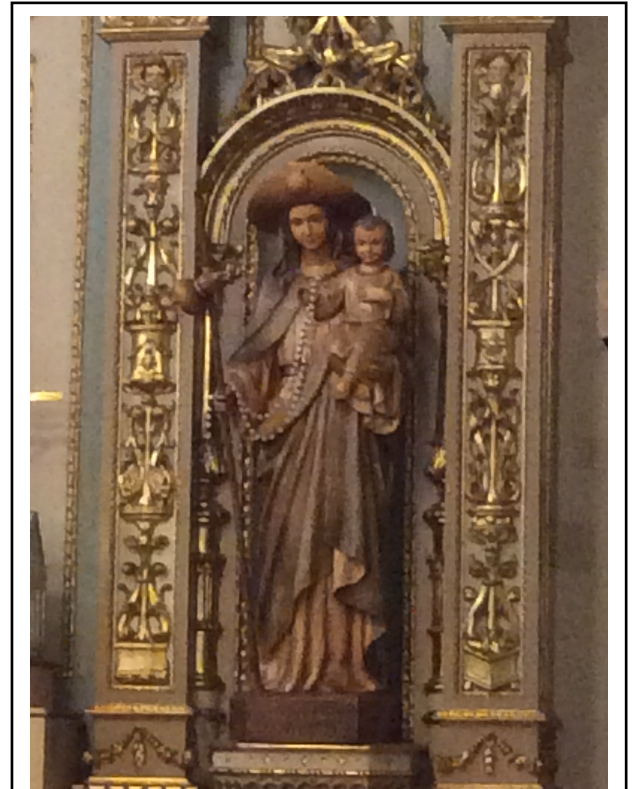
Weary and troubled with so much uncertain,
Helpless and homeless and so far away,
Struggling to care so many are helpless;
All they can do is walk on and pray.
Saviour, O Saviour, we're tired and we're
troubled.
Humbly we seek your presence today.

Daily, so daily, through years and through
trials,
Often uncertain with hope far away,
Walking by faith in the One who is faithful,
God is our strength in the day after day.
Saviour, O Saviour, through years and through
trials,
Come, be our strength in the day after day.

Jesus, You came from the glories of heaven,
Taking our weakness and struggle and shame,
Walking by faith in the One who is faithful,
Dying in silence, You carried our pain.
Saviour, O Saviour, now gladly we follow,
Taking Your cross and Your struggle and
shame.

Walking by faith in the One who is faithful,
Finding You strong in the day after day.
Walking by faith in the One who is faithful;
Lord, You are strong in the day after day.

*Adapted from Words by Ken Bible
Music: Traditional Spanish Melody and Ken Bible
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***The Pilgrim Christ
Chapel
Pilgrim's Office,
Santiago de Compostela***

**Love is the life that responds to a call
and chooses its truth as its treasures
And walks with the one
who says "Come and follow me,
for to show you the way is my pleasure**

Walking with Jesus at Easter

With the Camino 'closed' and the isolation restrictions on all our movements, there is only a limited amount of walking that we can do at the present time, but Holy Week and Easter do give us the opportunity to join Jesus, at least in Spirit on three stages of his Camino.

The first stage has passed this year (2020), and I would ask:-

- Did you walk with Jesus on the way to Jerusalem?

- Did you see him give sight to the blind man who shouted so loud?
- Did you see him get on that donkey, and did it remind you of the words of the prophet, 'See your king comes'? and Did you shout Hosannah! and wave palm branches or throw your cloak down for him to ride over?

Often on the Camino we walk with friends or join a noisy group with a charismatic leader - for friendship and togetherness, to give us the protection of numbers on the road. Then we split up as we find our bed for the night.

And I ask - Will you join Jesus on the next part of His Camino, on Good Friday when he walks the Via Dolorosa to Golgotha?
Is he still your new friend, and do you walk with him again, or does the crowd now frighten you so that you keep back, and say your Hosannahs under your breath?
or Have you changed your tune and decided to follow the crowd again and changed your cry to 'Crucify!'?

Often on the Camino there are days when we walk alone, when we need to share the thoughts that press upon us, when it seems that nobody else wants to join us (and they can't help anyway), when we don't take in the scenery because the agonies of our situation dominate. At least we know at this times that Jesus is with us and walks with us, why can't we walk with him when he is burdened?

And the third part of Christ's Camino is the one where although he joins us we don't recognise him. We are sad that all we hoped for has been taken, we walk with our heads down and hit the road to Emmaus, following the now faded yellow arrows, assuming it is all over, optimism is dashed and we are back to square one. Then everything changes.....

Often on the Camino there are days when, as we walk along, trying not to feel the blisters, and as we trudge through drizzle and fog, we are joined by a stranger. We are pleased to have someone alongside and we tell him all about ourselves and the sadness we feel. And gradually we find ourselves strangely lifted by this stranger, who in his turn starts to tell us 'good news', who becomes our companion from heaven. We share a meal with him and that crowns the day for us - we don't see him again, but somehow he is with us always.

I pray that you will be with Jesus on his journey, not just this Easter, but everyday, and that he will be your faithful companion on the road.

Fr Bob

PRAYERS

God of Our Pilgrimage, Thank You for Your Friendship.
Be the Fire Leading Us.
Be the Star Guiding Us.
Be the Good Shepherd Calling Us.
May the Spirit, Strengthen Us
For All that Lies Ahead.
May Your Holy Angels, Surrounding Us:
Watch, Defend and Protect Us Against All Evil.
Amen

Please include the following in your prayers:-

The people and government of Spain and Portugal - The Church in Spain, especially Archbishop Julian, Fr Manny and all our friends who minister in Santiago - for those who rely on the Camino for their livelihood - for the albergues and those who stay them - Those who have had to cancel or postpone their walk on the Camino - the travel agents and those organising pilgrimage - our Camino Chaplaincy, our chaplains and Sybille our pivotable representative in Santiago.

We don't need to remind you to pray for:- All those affected directly or indirectly by Coronavirus - the families of those who mourn - those in isolation - the doctors and nurses and all who work in our hospitals - shopkeepers and all those who through their work are in exposed situations - those involved in medical research, seeking a remedy

Please allow us to pray for - You, your family, your congregation, your exploration of new ways of ministry in difficult times - the things on your heart this day.

And let us not forget at Easter to thank God for his sacrifice for us and his glorious resurrection -

All Heaven Declares
The Glory Of The Risen Lord.
Who Can Compare
With The Beauty Of The Lord?
*Forever You Will Be
The Lamb Upon The Throne.
I Gladly Bow The Knee
And Worship You Alone.*

I Will Proclaim
The Glory Of The Risen Lord.
Who Once Was Slain
To Reconcile Man To God.
*Forever You Will Be
The Lamb Upon The Throne
I Gladly bow The Knee
Snd Worship You Alone*

God has called us to journey for a season through the wilderness places;
And so, as Jesus did before us, we will set out once more to wander in an uncomfortable landscape and wrestle with its challenges, that through the tempering action of the Spirit, we may emerge ready to do the work of the Kingdom.

Blessing

God the Father,
by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead
strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life
and the blessing of Almighty God
Father Son and Holy Spirit
Be with you as you continue your Camino- and for all time

Walk on in peace, to love and serve the Lord
In the Name of Christ, Amen, Alleluia!