

Dear all

The Stations of the Cross are a very important devotional aspect of Holy Week for many people. In one of my earlier letters, I linked with 2 very contrasting set of 'Stations', a link from Diarmaid MacCulloch, and one from Richard Coles.

One of the controversies I remember from my teenage years was the cross/crucifix debate. A strongly held view among the more evangelical friends was that we should not have a figure of Jesus on the cross, as He is risen. Surely as a church of 'Easter People' we should forget about the past... about the suffering... Let's proclaim resurrection, new life...

You may have detected a hint about what I feel. Why does it have to be either/or? Why not both/and?

Yes, we do need to remember that we live in the post-Easter world. The power of sin and death has been defeated. In the words of the Easter Anthems "Christ is risen from the dead, and become the first-fruits of them that slept". But sometimes living a triumphant life is hard. When life overwhelms us, sometimes we need to be reminded that God in Christ experienced a fully human life in all its sorrow, tragedy and pain. And that is where Holy Week, Good Friday and Holy Saturday come in. The Stations of the Cross can bring great comfort, as well as challenging us to the very core.

Another prayer from Nick Fawcett:

Thank you, Lord, for family at this time;
for loved ones, there to support us,
to demonstrate love and care in action,
to do what they can for us in time of need.

Thank you for friends;
those to whom our welfare really matters,
who seek to help us in whatever ways they can,
showing their concern,
compassion
and friendship,
not just through words
but through deeds.

Hear our prayer for those who do not have such support,
who are truly alone –
those for whom long days of isolation were already an all too frequent reality,
and who now feel cut off from all:

frightened,
helpless,
hopeless.

Reach out to them,
assuring them that you are by their side,
and help us too, in whatever ways we can,
to reach out likewise,
and show them they are not abandoned or forgotten.
Amen.

But Easter is a time of hope – a time that says that light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The Very Revd Andrew Nunn has produced a series of ‘Stations of the Resurrection’ – post-Easter reflections with accompanying artwork. I have attached a [copy](#) of this in pdf form.

I have just seen the final of University Challenge; a programme Helen and I love to watch. We feel so chuffed when we get an answer correct. The winners, Imperial College, were just awesome. I know they were good for the science questions, but how can people so young have such a broad range of knowledge already?

For those who like quizzes, Nick Fawcett has devised a ‘Who said that’ bible quiz. The link is below. You’ll have to wait for the answers – and no Googling!

<https://nickfawcett.uk/2020/04/20/quiz-time-who-said-that/>

Stay safe

Blessings and love

Mark