

**Retreat Day
Saturday 12th October
SAINT MARY'S , Boston**

**Theme: THE OUR FATHER AND THE ERA OF PEACE
When we pray for the coming of the Kingdom and
the doing of God's wil, what are we praying for?**

**Preachers: Fr Dominic O'Connor and
Derek Williams**

**Bring lunch for shared table and a bible,
pen and paper Tea and coffee provided**



**"Seek first the Kingdom of God and all these other
things will be added to you."
Mt 6:33**

Schedule

9.30am Mass (Rosary 9.00am)
10.00 Arrival Tea and Coffee
10.30 Talk followed by Meditation
(Confession Available)
11.30-12.30pm Adoration and
Benediction
12.45 Shared Lunch (bring Lunch)
1.30 Talk followed by Meditation
3.00 Wrap-up and depart
3.30 Tea and Coffee, discussion
4.00 Depart/ Vigil Mass.

In union with Christ take your
stand as suppliants before the
Heavenly Father and allow that
prayer to rise to Him from your
lips again and again, which has
been especially appropriate to
apostolic men in every age:
"hallowed by Thy name; Thy will
be done on earth, as it is in
heaven"! Only then shall we be
influenced solely by the honor of
God and by zeal to give Him
greater glory, when we earnestly
desire the restoration of His
Kingdom - the Kingdom of justice,
of love, and of peace--throughout
all the world.

Pius XII Fidei Donum

From the Parish Priest's Desk.....

Dear Parishioners,

We have been considering what the cross means and how the cross is the greatest grace as it is the source of grace that poured out from Christ's side. It prepares us for being able to receive the grace of the sacraments especially that of the Eucharist.



Without the grace of the cross and the soul dying to itself, the incredible graces contained in the Eucharist will not be able to be captured by the soul. It is by the cross and only the way of the cross that the gospel message is able to convert us so that we die to ourselves and rise in the new life of Christ. This is the goal of the spiritual life: living the very life of God through union with Jesus Christ.

Last week we looked at three easy steps to this – which can be practiced throughout the day – and which have incredible power:

Firstly, we **enter into** the heart of Christ through his pierced side and allow ourselves to be dissolved into his love. We must allow his love to absorb us – we simply receive it as it is a gift. We do not have to do anything other than to **desire** this.

Secondly, we then allow Jesus to teach us and show us how much he suffered out of love for us and therefore, how much he loves us.

The result of this will be that we shall truly come to love Jesus in a deeper and a more encompassing way and we shall then be able to understand and be at peace with embracing suffering for love's sake.

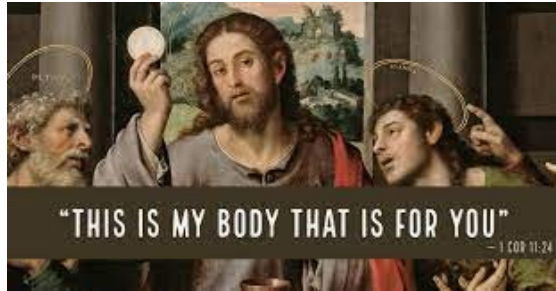


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A

What does it mean we should ask that the life of God is within us and not only within us but the principle of our life? And in what does the life of God in essence consist of? The best way of explaining this is to consider the action of the priest at mass. During the consecration he says the words, “ This is my body.....this is my blood.” The priest is using his faculties – his mind, his will – and using his human body – his tongue – as he says these words. He is also desiring to do what God wants and conforming himself to his; BUT, the person animating these actions is not the priest but Christ – God himself.



God so wants to live his life in us so that a similar thing can happen in all our actions if we desire it: what we are doing, what we are thinking, our breathing and the beating of our heart.

Before the fall, Adam and Eve had this life of God fully operating (working within them). Like the priest at mass they used their memory intellect and will but in order to be one with God. They were therefore able to carry out the Will of God perfectly and therefore, give the perfect glory back to God.

At the fall, they lost this gift, the gift of God constantly working within them. This was the greatest loss, indeed the other things that man now had to endure – suffering, pain, death were a natural consequence. Man also lost his dominion over nature which too was effected by this; hence, we see nature now in rebellion. This “rebellion” of nature is not primarily being cause by man’s stewardship of nature (although as Pope Francis says we have a responsibility and duty here) but by sin.

We realize now why it is so difficult for us even to carry out God’s will and when like the saints we seek to carry it out, it produces within us a tremendous battle that made Paul cry out: “ Who will save me from this?” We need to ponder how great our misfortune has been.



B

But the Good News is that Jesus not only came to redeem us but to bring about a great healing of our human will so that once again like Adam and Eve we can not only carry out God’s will but allow it like the priest at mass to operate within us.

So Jesus first redeemed us and gave us the grace to carry out the Will of the Father and to become great saints and he established the Kingdom on earth but it had yet to reach its perfect fulfillment. Hence he was on fire to teach us the prayer the Our Father in which we pray for this Kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven – a Kingdom prophesied in the Old and the New – and that once again His Will be done *on earth as it is in heaven.*

We have been praying this prayer for almost exactly two thousand years and the Kingdom in its fulness is nearly with us. However, it is being ushered in by great tribulation in the world and in nature so that man might come to his senses and return to God. God always prepares his greatest gifts through what seems to us a long preparation.

This fulness of the Kingdom is known by different titles and various have been used by mystics, saints and Our Lady: The New Pentecost; The Era of Peace, The Triumph of the Immaculate Heart and Living in the Divine Will.

So we need to return to the Our Father with new eyes. We have to be wise and desire the gift that he wishes to give us; us the most broken, the most sinful, the most unworthy who are living during the greatest trial that the world has seen. God always reserves his greatest gifts for the greatest time of trial. So there will be a retreat day when we can look at this more detail – see over the page. As Chesterton said that the darkest hour is just before the dawn. Thanks be to God we have been chosen to live in these times and receive God’s greatest gift – Divine Mercy and Divine Will. . God bless, Fr. Dominic



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