



GOING FORWARD TOGETHER ...

Passion (Palm) Sunday 2022

FROM THE READINGS

... the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice

and praise God with a loud voice ...

'Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!'. *Luke 19:37b-38*

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue.

So that I may know how to reply to the wearied

he provides me with speech.

Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple.

The Lord has opened my ear. *Isaiah 50:4-5*

O Lord, do not leave me alone,

my strength, make haste to help me! *Psalms 21:22:19*

Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high ... *Philippians 2:6-9a*

As they were leading Jesus away they seized on a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and made him shoulder the cross and carry it behind Jesus. Large numbers of people followed him, and of women too, who mourned and lamented for him. *Luke 22:26-27*

FROM FELLOW TRAVELLERS

Not the one who takes up his bed and walks

But the ones who have known him all along

and carry him in –

Their shoulders numb,

the ache and stoop deeplocked

in their backs, the stretcher handles

slippery with sweat.

And no let-up

until he's strapped on tight, made tiltable

and raised to the tiled roof,

then lowered for healing.

Be mindful of them as they stand and wait

for the burn of the paid-out ropes to cool.
Their slight lightheadedness
and incredulity
to pass, those ones who had known him all along.

Seamus Heaney quoted in *Heroes of the Faith*, 264

We have to combine mission with charity.

We are sent to spread His love and compassion.

Mother Teresa quoted in *Heroes of the Faith*, 233

Yet, unlike anyone else, he bore our lot,

and carried the full ballast of our sorrows;
but we carried on as if he deserved his fate,
sentenced to misery by God.

The wounds he bore were for our faults,
the crown he wore was for our violations;
He suffered shame to bring us peace,
tasted pain that we might be healed.

Bruce Prewer, 'The Suffering Servant' in *Australian Prayers*, 48

Calamities unmask our shared vulnerability

and expose those false, superfluous securities around which we had organised our plans, routines and priorities. They reveal our neglect of what nourishes and strengthens the life of the community, how we had shrivelled within our bubbles of indifference and wellbeing.

Pope Francis, *Let Us Dream*, 99

The task of reconciler is instead to "endure" the conflict, facing it head-on, and by discerning see beyond the surface reasons for disagreement, opening those involved to the possibility of a new synthesis, one that does not destroy either pole, but preserves what is good and valid in both in a new perspective ... Sometimes the Spirit acts to show us that we are looking in the wrong direction, that what we think the issue is "about" is not.

Pope Francis, *Let Us Dream*, 80 & 90

FOR THINKING AND PRAYING

- What words or phrases stand out for you in these readings and insights of 'fellow travellers'?
- What insights might you take with you on your own journey?

PRAYER

God of the crucified Jesus, we pray:

For the Church:

**that we may be courageous in carrying the cross,
compassionate in forgiving our enemies:
*and willing to use our resources in love for all for whom Jesus died.***

For Australia:

**that our Australian nation may be both just and generous:
*and experience the grace that comes from losing life and finding it.***

For the suffering:

**that sick, hungry, or suffering people may know your love and receive
your help which they need physically, mentally, or spiritually:
*In the fellowship of Christ's sufferings,
may they know there is a God who understands.***

For our families and friends:

**that, according to their individual needs,
your divine strength may be experienced in human weakness:
*and that hopes that have been buried may germinate and grow,
and be ready for a resurrection.***

For each of us here:

**that we may be lifted above anxieties, guilt, bewilderment, pain, or fear,
and, by the mercy of the Jesus who bore our sorrows and carried our shame,
find peace at the foot of the Holy Cross. Blessed be your name,
*God of the Crucified, Friend of all the needy and forsaken.***

Bruce Prewer, 'Good Friday Intercessions, *Australian Prayers*, 52