

**5 April 2020**

**Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion**

*Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66*

There a Jesus is on the cross is giving his life it's a picture of powerlessness. We know that it's by choice. He said that if he wanted he could call 12 legions of angels to come to his rescue, but he chose not to he chose to be powerless.

In his ministry he used his power to heal to give sight to the blind even last week we had to raise Lazarus from the dead but **he will not use his power to save his own life. Why?**

During this time of coronavirus pandemic, we may yearn for God to rescue us. **We might look at the crucifix and cry out "why didn't you do something for Jesus and why don't you do something for us now?"** As they called out to Jesus, "Save yourself and us!" "Why not use your power?"

You might've heard that a couple weeks ago **Pope Francis** visited two churches in Rome and prayed mightily in front of an icon and a cross known historically for saving Rome from plague. When asked what he prayed for, he said for God to end the pandemic. God did not do that. God did not come to the rescue. Just as God has not come to the rescue of many who have died from this virus. Just as he did not rescue Jesus.

**What good is God for us then?** Some of us in the parish read a book by Fr. Ronald Rolheiser where he says that the cross shows us that **God is not a rescuing God**, but rather that **God is redeeming God**. God doesn't prevent the darkness but shows us how to walk in the darkness and to fear no evil for he is at our side. God doesn't prevent pain but shows us how to suffer in faith and compassion. God doesn't prevent death but raises the dead to life. **Faith in the cross is faith that God feels our suffering and will not let it be the end of the story.**

We might not want that to be in the story at all but life is so, and as we're learning, **there's much in life that we do not control**. In the midst of what we do not control and what we have to suffer we can be faithful, Loving, and trusting. It really is an act of faith to trust in the redeeming love of God in the midst of fear, pain and death.

Some of you probably heard of a father Berardelli in Italy. He was 72 years old and his parishioners had bought him a ventilator because he needed it from time to time. last month he contracted the coronavirus. Realizing the shortage of ventilators for other victims of the virus, he gave his away to a much younger person to save that person's life. A week later he died.

No one could come to Fr. Berardelli's funeral because of the virus but on the day of his burial at noon everyone in his city Clapped and ring bells from the porches and terraces.

Why did they clap for him? Why not treat him like those treated Jesus on the cross calling him a fool for not saving himself? It is because he, like Jesus, shows us that there is something more powerful than death: Love. It is love that we must never lose, because it redeems our suffering and death and brings us to eternal life.