



## TRUST IN HIS PROMISES

*Allison Gingras*

Experiencing anxiety when someone we love is ill can be extremely difficult. As faithful people, often our first (and best) response is to seek the Lord's help. Waiting for an answer to that prayer can also be anxiety-producing. It must have seemed so confusing to Mary and Martha, knowing how much Jesus cared for their brother, that he would delay coming to his assistance.

Jesus loved the family from Bethany, but he loved the Father more. Not only did he know all would be well, but more importantly, it was also to be an opportunity to glorify Him in the delayed response. In the reading from Romans, St. Paul reminds us we are not just flesh, but also spirit. Jesus demonstrates through his response to Lazarus' illness and death the importance of answering prayers ordered to renew, strengthen, and heal the spirit over physical healing. Though He promises Lazarus' illness will not end in death, and it does not ...eventually, Lazarus, like all of us, does indeed die. Jesus' discussions with both Mary and Martha in today's Gospel illuminate how His answer to our prayers should first and foremost lead us to deeper faith and hope in Heaven.

Remember, Martha is the sister upset, during Jesus' previous visit to Bethany, that her sister is sitting at his feet instead of helping with the work of serving. She is taught, then, by the Master, of the need to balance our service and work with making time for the essential work of prayer. She's taken his words to heart. Martha demonstrates her strength of faith within the anxiety and grief of her brother's illness and death. Although devastated at the loss of her brother, she clings to her faith in the resurrection.



Later in the Gospel Martha says to Jesus, “I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day.’ Jesus told her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’ She said to him, ‘Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world’” (John 11:21-27).

As we pray and the answers do not come, we can feel abandoned or punished by God. Like Martha, we must cling to the truth and enter as she does into dialog with Jesus. Prayer is the vehicle of that dialog. Simply put, prayer is a conversation. Remember, it is meant to be a two-way discussion. How can we hear God when he seems quiet or distant? We can turn to the Scriptures; it is the Word of God.

Martha draws from the promises of Scripture to seek comfort in her brother's death. She recalls the promise of the resurrection, her own faith strengthened by her ability to learn from her earlier conversation with Jesus to balance work and faith life. Her words demonstrate she has learned the blessings that come from stepping away from the constant doing, to be with him and listen, since her initial encounter with Christ.

The better part Mary chose during his visit to Bethany, was to sit at the feet of Jesus. Mary acted aware of our need to turn to Jesus in prayer, to listen, await, and most of all, trust in His promises. The promise that he loves us, is always with us, and he can bring good into every situation in our lives. Above all, God is to be glorified in all things.

### PRAYER

Lord,

help me to proclaim like Martha,  
that I believe you are the Messiah.

In times when answers to my prayers feel delayed,  
fill my heart with the grace to understand,  
in the waiting God, your Father, and ours will be glorified.

In all circumstances,  
may I never forget the goal of everything  
here on earth is to bring us to everlasting life in heaven. Amen

## Pope Francis on facing challenges of the coronavirus pandemic

In an interview with the Italian daily newspaper, "La Repubblica", Pope Francis says he is praying for an end to the coronavirus pandemic, and asks everyone to be close to those who have lost loved ones.

By Vatican News

"I asked the Lord to stop the epidemic: 'Lord, stop it with your hand'. That is what I prayed for". Pope Francis revealed the content of his prayer in an interview with Italian journalist, Paolo Rodari, published in Wednesday's edition of "La Repubblica" newspaper. Pope Francis made this prayer when he visited the Roman churches of Saints Mary Major and Marcello on the Via del Corso last Sunday.

In the interview, Pope Francis offers advice about how to face the daily challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic: "We need to rediscover the concreteness of small things, the small acts of kindness shown to those who are close to us, family, friends. We need to realize that our treasure lies in small things. There are tiny gestures that sometimes get lost in the routine of everyday life, gestures of tenderness, affection, compassion, that are nevertheless decisive, important", he says. The Pope gives the examples of sharing "a hot plate of food, a caress, a hug, a phone call... These are familiar, attentive gestures regarding everyday details that make life meaningful, and create communion and communication amongst us".

Pope Francis observes that many time communication is only "virtual". "Instead we should discover a new closeness", he says. "Real relationships made of attentiveness and patience". The Pope describes how some families eat together at home in silence – not because they are listening to one another, but because "the parents are watching television while they eat, and their children are on their mobile phones". Pope Francis describes this kind of family as "monks isolated from one another". There is no communication here, he says. "Instead, listening to one another is important because we understand one another's needs, struggles, desires". "There is a language made of concrete gestures that must be safeguarded", continues the Pope. The suffering people are enduring at this time should make us open to this language.

In the interview, Pope Francis expresses his appreciation for healthcare personnel and volunteers. He thanks those who dedicate themselves to helping others in this way, and describes them as "an example" of the concreteness of small acts of kindness. The Pope invites "everyone to be close to those who have lost loved ones, to try to accompany them in every way possible". We must all be dedicated to consoling others, he adds. Pope Francis mentions that he was particularly struck by an article he

read recently. In it, the author indicates how "our behaviour always affects others' lives". The example cited was that of how not paying our taxes, leads to lack of health-care services.

Finally, Pope Francis invites everyone to hope — even those who do not believe. "We are all children of God, and He watches over us", says the Pope. "Even those who have not yet met God, those who do not have the gift of faith, can find their way through the good things that they believe in. They can find strength in their love

## An Garda Síochána



### COVID – 19 Contact Information – Community Policing 'E' District

If you are elderly, vulnerable, in self-isolation or know someone who is and requires assistance from our team at Donnybrook or Irishtown Garda Stations because of COVID-19, please get in contact.

- Community Policing:  
Donnybrook Community Policing – (01) 666 9286  
Irishtown Community Policing – (01) 666 9620  
Email: [donnybrook.community@garda.ie](mailto:donnybrook.community@garda.ie)
  
- Garda Stations:  
Donnybrook – (01) 666 9200  
Irishtown – (01) 666 9600
  
- Emergency: 999 / 112

Regards,  
Community Policing Team



## In Memoriam Sunday 5 April 2020 11am: Tommy Nolan, Anniversary

## Masses and Confession

All Masses with congregation suspended due to the Covid 19 virus

Sunday 11am will be broadcast live on our Church Streaming Service and are available as a recording all week

Daily masses 10am available online and as a recording every day