

A HEART THAT NEED NOT BE TROUBLED



DO NOT LET
YOUR HEARTS
BE TROUBLED

Promises have meaning and are typically not taken lightly. There is something about receiving someone's promise that evokes peace in our hearts. While the present moment may be uncertain or trying, knowing there is something good on the horizon gives hope. In John 14, Jesus shares heavenly promises bound to bestow peace and hope.

Jesus comforts us, proclaiming that we should not let our hearts be troubled. He encourages us not only to have faith in God but also to have faith in him, an act of trust you will never find misguided. Faith, as Hebrews 11 tells us, "is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen." Most experiences of faith are something not seen but felt only in our hearts. Perhaps having faith is not always the simplest task, but God never asks the impossible; therefore, we can be assured of the grace necessary to accomplish it.

We can hold tight to other promises shared by Jesus in today's Gospel as well; these are especially comforting in times of uncertainty. Jesus has gone before us and is preparing a place for us — meaning there is room in heaven for everyone. Furthermore, He promises to come back and take us there so that all we need to know of how to get there, is to follow the Way, Jesus himself. For Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life — the model of faith and giver of peace.

Although Jesus has gone before us, he is still, and will always be, right here with us. As worries mount, so too does the tendency to feel God has forgotten us, but the Scriptures ask us to recall the promises of His presence. Hope is restored upon the assurance never to be forsaken nor abandoned (Hebrews 13:5); recalling Jesus remains with us always, until the end of the age, to be exact (Matthew 28:20).

It is precisely those moments when we struggle the most to see God amid our circumstances, that we should rely those promises. With the gift of hindsight, we can look back to the outcomes of other hardships or trials (especially those beyond our control), carefully and prayerfully recognizing all the graces bestowed. Possibly the situation didn't resolve as wished, yet there is a discernable peace associated with that time and some greater good that came from it.

A family once prayed for a cure to their brother's terminal illness. They longed for his healing. As the disease progressed, so did his once dormant faith. Before becoming sick, he was far removed from the Catholic faith. His illness brought forth completely different healing as he decided to embrace a relationship with Christ. The miraculous reception of the sacraments, after too many years to count, and the acceptance of God's will; amazed the family, who likewise found great peace in this otherwise unwanted circumstance. In the end, the eternal promises of Christ resulted in a peace that was truly beyond understanding.

Like St. Thomas, we too can worry we'll not know the path to the place Jesus has prepared for us. The road may seem confusing or beyond our reach. The promises, while trustworthy, may feel as though they are meant for someone else, and not for someone so filled with doubt, sin, or fear. Remember, out of great love for us, while we were still sinners, God sent his only Son to die for our redemption (Romans 5:8).

Jesus is truly the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and we don't have to search far to find he is always with us. He journeys alongside our darkness and our joy. He is the embodiment of the unseen God; if we have seen him, then we have seen the Father.

**St Mary's
Parish**

*Serving
the
Community*

*Serving
the
Family*

*Serving
the
City*

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Child Protection: <http://www.stmaryshaddingtonroad.ie/ministries/child-protection/> also www.csp.dublindiocese.ie

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We don't need to search far to find signs and wonders of God. We can witness his almighty love in a sunrise, the sweet smile of a child, and the peace which comes in prayer. "Amen, Amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father," (John 14:11). Amen, this is where hope prevails amid the most challenging and uncertain times.

Allison Gingras

PRAYER

Jesus, I do not want my heart to be troubled.
I long to live in the peace of knowing
you have prepared a place for me,
and hope to follow you to it one day.
Amen, I do believe in your great works shared in
the Gospels
and long to believe in even greater things.
Guide me to truth along the way to a life with
you, my Lord.
Amen.

POEM

And where is Jesus, this strange Easter day?
Not lost in our locked churches, anymore
Than he was sealed in that dark sepulchre.
The locks are loosed; the stone is rolled away,
And he is up and risen, long before,
Alive, at large, and making his strong way
Into the world he gave his life to save,
No need to seek him in his empty grave.

He might have been a wafer in the hands
Of priests this day, or music from the lips
Of red-robed choristers, instead he slips
Away from church, shakes off our linen bans
To don his apron with a nurse: he grips
And lifts a stretcher, soothes with gentle hands
The frail flesh of the dying, gives them hope,
Breathes with the breathless, lends them strength
To cope.

On Thursday we applauded, for he came
And served us in a thousand names and faces
Mopping our sickroom floors and catching traces
Of that corona which was death to him:

Good Friday happened in a thousand places
Where Jesus held the helpless, died with them
That they might share his Easter in their need,
Now they are risen with him, risen indeed.

*Malcolm Guite, poet, theologian, songwriter and
chaplain of Girton College, Cambridge.
Published in The Tablet this week.*

*You can hear Malcolm read his poem at
www.malcolmguite.wordpress.com/blog*

Assuring the Upkeep of Our Parish

Like any, family, body, or institution, the Church in its ministry and mission has always needed an income in order to allow the local community to live and to maintain an

As we know, our church has been closed for a number of weeks now and we have had no public masses in that time. While our church is closed, it still has to be maintained and the financial needs have to be met. Since collection are not possible in the present situation, the Parish Pastoral Council finance section has been working on a system for our webpage to allow donations to be made to all of the usual collections in this way. This is to be found on the top right hand corner  of the website where you will find the access button to the page. From there, please follow the instructions. We know we can continue to count on your generosity.

Next week our Finance Committee will be sending out a letter to parishioners regarding the one going financing of our parish.

THANK YOU

FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY

Archbishop's Advice on Opening of Churches:

At the moment the Government Road-map indicates that the opening of Churches and places of worship is foreseen for mid-July. Like all other measures, it is possible that if the public health situation permits it, these dates could be brought forward. It is important for the Church to give the message that we are enthusiastically preparing for the opening of all our Churches and the resumption of public Masses.

Many Churches remain open for private prayer where strict precautions are in operation. Churches are also open for funerals, baptisms and weddings in very limited numbers. Attendance at funerals is currently strictly limited to 10 people.

I suggest that Churches begin already preparing a detailed plan for full re-opening of Churches. Markers could be laid on benches and on floors to facilitate social distancing, remembering that the two metre distance applies not just to those beside you, but also those in front and behind you. A written plan should be developed regarding hand hygiene for larger numbers and for adequate cleansing of Churches.