

A Reflection for Holy Week

We are in Holy Week and at its centre there is the human journey of Jesus when many of those closest to him turn away from him and when the religious and political authorities have him put to death. His life given over to those who fear him and cannot or will not engage with the hopeful message that he had showed people through his words and by his actions throughout his life.

The sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross, the laying down of his life, asking of us to think about the circumstances that led to him unjustly being put to death. And in what he faces in these last days, in his isolation, we find the humanity of Jesus more apparent than ever before.

Alongside this and firmly linked to it is the question of how we interpret the death of Jesus as a Sacrifice. Jesus' own words and the analogies that he gave, especially about the Temple, providing the main way for interpretation and along with this the interpretation of his death by the New Testament writers, then the early Church and by the churches since.

The sacrifice of Jesus interpreted as the way through which people are able to find their way back to God. People and all creation being at one with God, all included within God's love and within God's loving purposes.

Let us have this in mind as we read or listen to the Passion narratives from John's Gospel. And to see if you find a phrase or phrases that particularly connect with you and to reflect on this.

The passage online is read by 6 different voices and at the end the hymn 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross' will be sung.