

# PRIORY NEWSLETTER

St. Mary's Dominican Priory - Tallaght, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent (A), 26<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2023



## Life in Death

It was dangerous for Jesus to go to Judea again; the authorities were determined to seize him. When he decided nevertheless to go there, Thomas said, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." So Jesus faced death to give life to Lazarus. This is John showing us the *meaning* of Jesus' life, or applying the first brush-stroke in this scene.

An alternative (or more accurately, a disjunction) is not a paradox. *Life or death* is not yet paradox; the paradox is *life in death*. Johann Tauler (1300 – 1361) wrote: "If only we could seek joy *in* sadness, peace *in* trouble, simplicity *in* multiplicity, comfort *in* bitterness! This is the way to become true witnesses to God." Life *in* death is what we are going to see in this scene. To make it quite clear that we are not dealing with a disjunction but with a paradox, he tells us that Lazarus has been unmistakably dead for four days.

A disjunction is easy to understand. It is the way of ordinary rational thinking: yes or no, right or wrong, good or bad.... It keeps the two elements carefully apart; it makes opposites of them, it makes enemies of them. It has the appearance of being very clear and strong: if you talk, for example, about an "Axis of Evil", you expect nothing from them and you give them no quarter. It

also looks scientific (computers are built on this principle); but it is also quite fictional. Oscar Wilde once remarked, "In fiction, good people do good things and bad people do bad things; that's why we call it fiction." In reality, good people often do bad things and bad people good things. Any account of human affairs that sees only disjunction would be a handbook for war, or a work of fiction, but not a gospel of life.

We spend our life trying to avoid even the thought of death. (...)

This is not the way a Christian thinks about it. The death of Christ shapes our consciousness of death. St Paul wrote that we are "baptised into his death" The word 'baptised' means 'plunged'. "By baptism we have been buried with him into death." This is not running away from death and the thought of death. It seems more like running *towards* it. Why? Because "just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life." The place of death is the place of resurrection. The resurrection is not an alternative to death; rather it is in death that resurrection is to be found. We are delivered from the crippling fear of death and of everything that reminds us of it. This frees us to live.

Fr. Donagh O'Shea OP  
[www.goodnews.ie](http://www.goodnews.ie)

## NOTICES

### COLLECTIONS

Offertory: €1387

Share: €889

Envelope: €75

St. Patrick's: €1202

### PALM SUNDAY

Help needed for cutting of palm for next Sunday. If you could lend a hand,

please give your contact details to a member of the Parish Team.

### BORROWED AND YET TO BE RETURNED

A pyx is a vessel used for bringing Holy Communion to people in their homes. Over the years some people have borrowed one or two from the Priory but not gotten around to returning them. We would be grateful if people could return them to us as soon as possible.

### JESUS CHRIST SUPER STAR NOW AND THEN

St Mary's Priory, Tallaght Village,  
28th-31st of March 2023,  
8.00pm sharp, doors opening at 7.30pm,



### CONFESSIONS BEFORE EASTER

#### MONDAY 3rd April

DEANERY PENITENTIAL SERVICE: 7.30pm (with opportunity for individual confessions)

#### HOLY THURSDAY 6th April

7.00pm – 7.50pm

#### GOOD FRIDAY 7th April

10.15am - 12.00 noon

After Ceremonies – 5.00pm

7.30pm - 8.00pm

#### HOLY SATURDAY 8th April

10.15am – 12.00 noon

3.30pm - 4.30pm

#### POLISH MINISTRY CONFESSIONS

Sat 1st April: 8.15pm - 9.00pm

Tue 4th April: 7.00pm - 8.30pm

### READ OUR WEBPAGE

[www.stmarys-tallaght.ie](http://www.stmarys-tallaght.ie)  
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