

GOOD FRIDAY
ST. DAVID'S CATHEDRAL
ARCHBISHOP GEORGE STACK
25TH MARCH 2016

In many churches today, the meditation will be on the Seven Last Words of Jesus: *"Father, Forgive them, they know not what they do"; "Today you will be with me in paradise"; "Woman, behold your son"; "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"; " I thirst"; "It is accomplished"; "Into your hands I commend my spirit".*

I would like to share with you some other words the words of the 14th century English mystic, Julian of Norwich. In her "Revelations of Divine Love" she writes of the visions she had of Jesus on the Cross.

She asks:

What do you wish to know of the Lord's meaning in this thing?

Know it well ... for Love was his meaning.

Who reveals it to you? ... Love.

What did he reveal to you? ... Love

Why did he reveal it to you? ... For Love

The love, which made him suffer, surpasses all suffering.

And then Jesus speaks to her from the cross and says:

If I could suffer more, I would suffer more.

He did not say: "If it were necessary to suffer more".

But he said: "If I could suffer more, I would suffer more".

At the heart of turmoil, which so often confuses our lives, that question is a key one. What is it that you want? What more do you want? What more could I do for you? If I could do more I would do more.

We had an extraordinary example of self-sacrificing love this week with the drowning of a family of five in County Donegal, Ireland. A rescuer swam to the car as it was sinking. The father had escaped with his baby. "Save my baby" - he said. And got back into the car to be with the rest of his family as they drowned.

"The love which made him suffer surpasses all suffering" said Jesus to Julian of Norwich.

"If I could have suffer more I would suffer more".

"Greater love has no man than he lay down his life for his friends". (Jn.15:13)
