



Homily for the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

Good Friday - 19th April 2019

Cardiff Cathedral: St. David's Cathedral, Cardiff

Archbishop George Stack

Who could fail but be moved by the traumatic scenes and devastation caused by the fire at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris? Equally moving, but in a different way, are the pictures of the cross of Christ in the Cathedral, suspended in mid-air, shining through the smoke and the apparent ruins of this ancient building? That image reminds me of the motto of the Religious Order of Carthusian monks written one thousand years ago: *“The cross stands still while the world is turning”*.

The cross which will be unveiled for our veneration in a few minutes time is a very heavy one, so solid it can't be carried. It is a reminder that the cross and all it signifies stands at the crossroads of every person's life – believer and non-believer alike. Every one of us has to try to make sense of the good and the bad, the success and the failure, the sickness and the health, the suffering and the sin and ultimately the death which is that part of life that is turned away from us. And the thousands of “little deaths” we have to endure.

When we come forward to kiss the wood of the cross, we profess that we believe that Jesus has gone before us and broken through all the barriers that separate us from God, from each other, and even those barriers within ourselves which obstruct us from being the people we are created to be. Where is God. We kiss the cross and say it cannot be avoided. We cannot get around it. We need to grow through

it, to be held in the loving embrace of our crucified Saviour. Where God in the midst of suffering? “Here” says Jesus with arms outstretched on the cross.

Hold though thy cross before my closing eyes.

Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.

Heaven’s morning breaks, and earths vain shadows flee.

In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.
