

The Choreography of Love



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE

2020 June 7
The Most Holy Trinity

Today I'd like to share with you an excerpt from William P. Young's book, The Shack. Try to read it four times, contemplating what you read, and considering what God might be saying to you through it. In this excerpt, the main character, Mack, goes into a kitchen and meets the Trinitarian God in the form of 'Papa,' a warm, motherly African woman who is God, Jesus, and 'Sarayu,' an ethereal Asian woman who is the Holy Spirit. Please listen with open minds and hearts as you consider this portrayal of the Community of the Trinity of God, and listen for God's voice.

(Note: Some people might have a hard time relating to this image of God. That is okay. However they react and respond to the excerpt will be a part of their conversation with God as they do the lectio divina and pray)

"What was truly important here was the love story they had for one another and the fullness it brought them."

Read the excerpt as follows:

FIRST READING – Ask the group to listen for what word or phrase catches their attention.

Mack was shocked at the scene in front of him. It appeared that Jesus had dropped a large bowl of some sort of batter or sauce on the floor, and it was everywhere. It must have landed close to Papa because the lower portion of her skirt and bare feet were covered in the gooey mess. All three were laughing so hard that Mack didn't think they were breathing. Sarayu said something about humans being clumsy and all three started roaring again. Finally Jesus brushed past Mack and returned a minute later with a large basin of water and towels. Sarayu had already started wiping the goop from the floor and cupboards, but Jesus went straight to Papa and, kneeling at her feet, began to wipe off the front of her clothes. He worked down to her feet and gently lifted one foot at a time, which he directed into the basin where he cleaned and massaged it. "Ooooh, that feels soooo good!" exclaimed Papa, as she continued her tasks at the counter. As he leaned against the doorway watching, Mack's mind was full of thoughts. So this was God in relationship? It was beautiful and so appealing. He knew that it didn't matter whose fault it was – the mess from some bowl

had been broken, that a dish that had been planned would not be shared. Obviously, what was truly important here was the love story they had for one another and the fullness it brought them. He shook his head. How different this was from the way he treated the ones he loved!

After a brief time of silence, invite volunteers to speak the word or phrase that caught their attention – with no additional comment or elaboration.

SECOND READING – Ask the group to ponder what connection the word or phrase might have to their life situations/experiences. Have a few moments of silence for the group to make any connections they might make between their word/phrase and their life situations/experiences.

THIRD READING – Ask the group to ponder what God might want to reveal to them about their lives. Follow with a few minutes of silence for people to listen for God to speak or reveal what God chooses in their prayer.

FOURTH READING – Ask the group to simply rest in God's presence as they listen.

Invite volunteers to share their insights, then close with prayer.

A CONFESSION

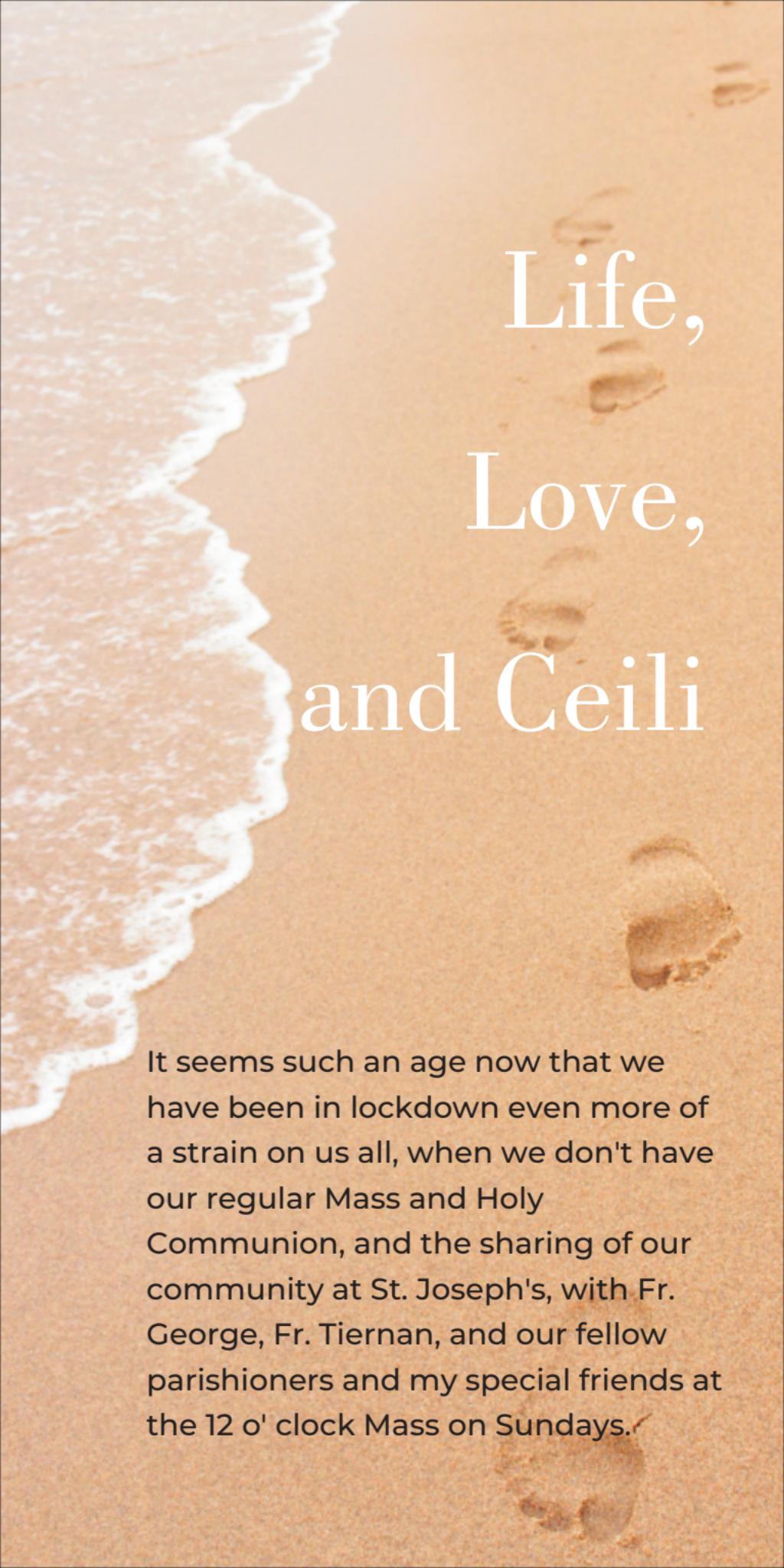
I have been to Mass each Sunday for years, taking communion and (to be honest) taking it for granted and not feeling as thankful or worshipful as I think I should.

Now that I have not been able to go into church; I feel closer or more powerfully moved/more profoundly in touch with... God, than ever. I wonder why? ...

The, often said, phrase that we appreciate something more when we've lost it, seems right in this case.

-a parishioner





Life, Love, and Ceili

It seems such an age now that we have been in lockdown even more of a strain on us all, when we don't have our regular Mass and Holy Communion, and the sharing of our community at St. Joseph's, with Fr. George, Fr. Tiernan, and our fellow parishioners and my special friends at the 12 o' clock Mass on Sundays.

**"Blessed be God
who did not reject
my prayer,
nor withhold his
love for me."**

Thank you, Fr. George for the weekly parish news that comes via the computer, such careful input and a great support to us all.

During this time at home I have followed the Sunday Mass Readings and the Mass for Ascension Day. It was on the sixth Sunday of Easter that I the last two lines of the fourth verse of the Psalm really helpful and supportive to me while praying from home, and often feeling our prayers are not answered, these lines made me think more about God's love for us.

"Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer, nor withhold his love for me."

Love and prayers to all at St. Joseph's.

-Mary Coyle



How long, O Lord?

How long, O Lord? How long will you hide your face from us? How long will you forget to answer our prayers?

How long will this virus spread throughout the world, and bring sickness, death, and economic ruin?

Look upon us and answer, O Lord our God, For our lives have been turned upside down!

We have lost comfort and certainty, activities that bring happiness, the hugs of loved ones, and the joy of being in community with your people.

We long for the normal rhythm of life, even where normal isn't perfect.

Homes become prisons, safe but isolated, where depression and despair lay in wait.



Exhausted doctors and nurses save lives while
in fear for their own.

The dead are piled in trailers, refrigerated, and
mourners left to grieve, alone.

Millions have lost jobs and pay checks and
retirement savings; Unpaid bills and rent
dismantle futures,

Yet the opening economy gambles lives.
How are we to choose?

The injustice of inequality multiplies these
hardships, big and small, and robs us of coming
together as one.

Save us, O Lord, from this valley of death,
lead us again to green pastures and still waters,
for we trust that in you we might find goodness
and mercy to share all the days of our lives.
AMEN.



REMEMBER HOLY JOES

Your faithful stewardship throughout this crisis has enabled us to fulfil our mission without interruption. And so, I continue to encourage you to remember that St. Joseph's mission is vital to our community now, and will be all the more needed in the weeks and months to come.

I am grateful for your generosity and for your continued faithfulness to God, in such a time as this.

Please visit our website and the portal 'Donate to Our Parish' and download the forms you need and make your offerings.

www.stjosephshighgate.org.uk

Volunteers Please



At last, after so long with the church doors shut and locked, the reopening is in sight. We will be able to meet again in our place of worship but things will be different for the foreseeable future. It will be necessary to observe strict guidelines for prevention of any resurgence of the coronavirus and to do this, volunteers are needed to assist in various cleaning and sanitising tasks and to help provide people in the congregation directions guidelines regarding social distancing. Please get in touch if you are willing to help when the time comes at: **roxane.stirling@btopenworld.com**

Remember and pray

- + Francesco Stabile**
- + Patrick Hugh Farrell**
- + Isabel Pycroft**
- + Eileen Clarie Glasheen**
- + George Rego**, beloved father of our Superior General Joachim Rego.
- + Dallas Maria Weir**



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