



UNIVERSALLY UNIQUE AND UNIQUELY UNIVERSAL

Have you ever been with somebody in their final hours? I have many times. At the beginning of covid-19 days, I was at the death-bed of Sr. Maria Margaret, LSU. As I was coming away, she called me back to her side and said "I want to give you my blessing!" This is what we find Jesus doing in the gospel for today. We have here some of the last words of Jesus. "Before I go, I want



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE

you listen to one thing. Don't let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God. Believe in me. I am the way and the truth and the life." What we have here are not doctrinal words meant to exclude other people. We have here the words of a dying man. The words spoken in intimacy and love. They are not intended to be factual. They are intended to be poetic.

If you were to sit down and compliment your wife, "You are the most beautiful person in the world!" By the way, if you have never said that you should do it now, in quarantine period, because it is very good for marriage! In any case, if that was said to your wife, she wouldn't just run out to the next-door neighbour and boast, "My husband just said that I am lot prettier than you!" No, these are words spoken in love.

Some Christians would insist that Jesus is the only one and true way to God. And many very spiritual and religious people would convey just the opposite. They would say that all roads lead to the same place. Just pick a road, eventually you are going to get there. In other words, it doesn't matter if you follow Buddha or Jesus or any godly, you will get there. But Jesus didn't say that! He expressed, "I am the way and the truth and the life." And when he said that he had something very specific in mind, which no other religion is bold enough to claim. His way was this rare disciplined commitment to giving himself over and over again in love to



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people, especially the broken and the poor. He understood that by giving himself for the sake of others, he would draw near to the heart of God. There is no other religion, that says that. And it makes suffering for others worth, and bearable, knowing that you won't be separated from God. The life that he spoke of was the hope of resurrection, not just in the next world but in this world as well. And believe that nothing; like hardship or fear, adversity or even death would have the last word in your life. And Christianity is the only religion that claims these things. Jesus, Buddha, Mohammad and all the rest had radically different perspectives about these matters. They preached differently. How can we believe that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life and still affirm the all-embracing nature of God's love? Maybe instead of subscribing to the exclusivist's claim that Jesus is the only way and subscribing to the relativist's claim that any way will get you there; make him your way. The only question worth asking ourselves in the end is: "Is Jesus my Way? Is he my Life? And is he my Truth?" If he is; is there any evidence whatsoever in my life or in the world that it's true?

Then, with a deep sigh that lady lamented; "Do you know Fr. George? My heart is bleeding when I look at the closed doors of St. Joseph's."

CALL TO WORSHIP

(based on Psalm 31)

You have gathered us together once
again as your people, O God.

In your presence, we take refuge;
we are safe.

In your righteousness, you deliver us.

In this hour of worship,
incline your ear to us:

Hear our prayers, bless our meditations,
receive our offering,

dance to our singing, and infuse power
to our proclamation.

In our worship, O Lord,
let your face shine upon us.

Save us in your unfailing love and
send us forth

with your benediction. Amen.



A photograph of Pope Francis, wearing his white papal attire and zucchetto, with his hands clasped in prayer. The image is the top half of a promotional poster.

Pope Francis

invites us,

this Thursday 14th May,

to join with believers of all
religions and people of goodwill
in a Day of Prayer, Fasting and
Works of Charity.

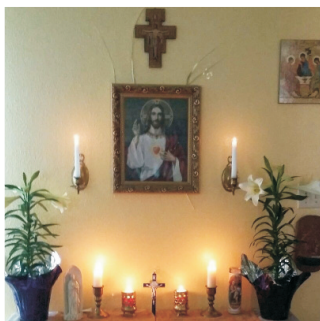
The Great Realisation



Yet another Easter Treat.

Dedicated to our First Communion
and Confirmation Candidates.
Enjoy!

<https://youtu.be/Nw5KQMXDiM4>



What does your Home Worship Space look like?

The corona virus pandemic has transformed how Catholics around the world practice their faith. With parish doors closed, more attention has been paid to the domestic church. We invite all our First Communion and Confirmation Candidates of this year to send in photos and description of their home prayer spaces to the respective email ids:

communion.joseph@gmail.com

confirmation.joseph@gmail.com



Remember and Pray

- + William Pender
- + Francesco Stabile
- + Annie Catherine Canning
- + Catherine Carmel Conroy
- + Patrick Hugh Farrell
- + Mamie Bourke

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'm inviting you to join me in giving a special Easter offering online, as an act of faith and thanksgiving for the abundant life that you experience through the many ministries of Holy Joe. Your generosity makes this abundant life possible for so many others, both near and far—especially in this season of deep need.

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.

