

Gospel Reflections for Holy Week (Tuesday 7 April 2020)

John 12: 20 – 36

This was a hard read today.

Sometimes you can just read over words without really seeing what is going on. It's worthwhile slowly re-reading this passage a few times with a mind to understanding what Jesus is going through just a few days before his arrest. It's heavy stuff. I stopped to linger over verse 27 and 28 in particular... *"Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!"*

What a couple of lines. Jesus literally has the weight of world on his heart and soul. In just a few days he knows he will be brutally tortured, and crucified. *'My soul is troubled'*...

Ever looked at your diary for the week ahead and just groaned under the weight of knowing what's ahead. I am sorry if this sounds flippant, disrespectful or a bit crass when I say this, but imagine Jesus' diary for the Thursday and Friday of that week;

Thursday

6.00pm – *Dinner with Friends*

8.00pm – *Speak to The Father! (Garden)*

9.00pm – *Judas arrives > Betrayed and arrested*

Friday

6.00am – *Meet with Sanhedrin then Governor Pilate*

7.00am – *'Trial'*

9.00am – *Be tortured*

12noon - *Be crucified*

3.00pm - *Die*

My point being, Jesus knew everything of what was about to happen to him.

He knew.

He understood the magnitude of what was expected of him. He had known of course all along that this was where his life was leading. But, now here it was, *'His hour had come'*... One can only imagine the storm of anguish in his soul as he contemplated the violence and suffering ahead. As God he *knew* what was ahead, as a man he *felt* the anguish of that knowing.

And yet we see, even as Jesus thought of the cross just a few days away, his main concern was to glorify the name and character of God the Father. The Father, whose heart is full of love, that would do all that was necessary to bring home the people he loved. It is troubling to read of Jesus' suffering and yet I do so with immense gratitude and hope that he did all this willingly because he also had me, and you, on his heart and soul that day too.

I went back and reread Jesus' diary – very slowly... I now see something I did not see on the first few reads. How did I miss it? Written across the pages in big red letters...

"For You"



Blessings,

Mark