

Dear Members & Friends of Wallneuk North Church I will try to share on my Facebook, my reflection on 7 words of Jesus on the Cross on this Good Friday.

If you are my Facebook Friend, you can watch it live tomorrow afternoon or you can watch any time afterward.

This Year's 2020's Good Friday and Easter will be completely different to anything any of us have ever experienced before. Instead of coming together in the Body of Christ in church to celebrate, let's give thanks and remember the amazing sacrifice which Jesus made for us, we will have to do that in our homes. I pray that our celebrations will nevertheless still honour the King of kings and Lord of lords. Try if you can and access one of the services which a number of our churches are live streaming; thank God for their initiative. Let us come together in mind and Spirit as we once again declare Him to be Risen Indeed.

Let us also continue to pray for families who have lost loved ones in this pandemic, pray for those who have fallen ill that they may make a full recovery. Pray for our Prime Minister that he will be restored to full health. Pray for our National Health Service and the many dedicated doctors, nurses and associated staff who seek to treat, comfort and bring healing to their patients whether they have the virus or other medical conditions. Pray for the many people who are committed to ensuring that our needs can be met in the emergency services, in shops and in stores and in many other areas. Let us also pray for the many thousands of volunteers up and down the nation who are seeking to help those less fortunate than themselves as well as the vulnerable folk in our society.

Let us also pray for those who have to conduct funerals in these changed circumstances where the absence of wider family, friends and acquaintances makes the grieving for families so much more painful, and where funeral arrangements have to be made sometimes by electronic means; pray for a special sensitivity and compassion for everyone who has that responsibility.

Finally, help us as Wallneuk North congregations to continue to pray. Pray that God will inspire each of us to think about and explore new ways to share the wonder of Easter with our families, friends and the

folk we might come into contact with; albeit from a safe distance. I pray that each one of us will have a special sense of God's presence in this time of Good Friday & Easter. Here is reflection on the 7 words on the Cross.

1- First of all Jesus Said on the Cross 'Father Forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing' (Luke 23-34). Almighty God, Help us to remember that the words of your Son, Jesus, were not words of anger and resentment but only words of compassion. Help us to bring the idea of your mercy and grace to all who need it and call to you. Lord, we ask you to help us forgive those who have hurt us. We bring before you those times we have held resentments and wrong attitudes to those who have hurt us and ask for your healing and forgiveness. Lord, as we commence our walk considering the utterances of your son, our Saviour, made from the cross, we ask you to help us hear your voice speaking to us afresh again today. Come, Holy Spirit, and bring insight and understanding to us as we remember you on the Cross. Help us Lord to discern the difficulties which people face and to bring some idea of the hope we have in you. AMEN

2- Jesus said : 'I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise' (Luke 23-43)

Lord, we thank you today that in a world that seems hopeless, you bring hope to our lives. As we think of the hopeless thief, lost and undone by his sin and selfishness, we are again amazed by your mercy and grace. Thank you, Lord, that when we deserved condemnation you gave us pardon; when we deserve judgment you showed us mercy; when we deserved death you gave us life. More than that, Lord, as you did for the dying you have given us a hope and a future. We thank you for your promise that faith and trust in you are all we need. We rejoice in your goodness. AMEN

3- Jesus Said to His mother, 'Dear woman, here is your son, and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' (John 19-36-27)

Lord, as we consider your response to your mother, Mary, help us to see that despite your own pain you still showed deep concern and compassion for her.

We pray that despite our own concerns and pains we will draw on your grace and compassion to enable us to follow your example and reach

out to others close to us, who are hurting and experiencing difficult times. Like John, Lord, may we be willing to provide practical support, provision and help. AMEN

4- Jesus cried out in a loud voice... 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' (Matthew 27-46). Lord, as we continue our walk and consider your statements from the cross and the depth of the loneliness you experienced in your suffering, may we draw strength from the fact that you have promised never to leave us, or forsake us.

Thank you for your confidence in God's grace. Thank you for your willingness to suffer separation from your Father in taking our sins into yourself so that we could be reconciled to Him.

It is hard for us to understand, but help us to recognise that when we face times when we feel abandoned we can know that you are with us. AMEN.

5: 'Later, knowing that all was now completed.... Jesus said, I am thirsty.' (John 19-28)

Lord, we come into your presence today and give thanks to you for the blessing of access to running water for physical refreshing. Forgive us for taking it so much for granted when there are others in the world today who do not enjoy such a luxury.

Forgive us too that we do not understand what the Bible says about spiritual thirst. Thank you that we have a deep thirst for you in our lives. Help us to listen to Jesus' words and to trust him, from whom the streams of living water flow. When our souls are parched, fill us with your living water so that we may have eternal life and know the joy of loving you.

AMEN

6: Jesus said, 'It is finished'... When he had said this, he breathed his last. (John 19:30). It is finished. We rejoice today in the finished work of salvation and pray that, as we share together today, we begin to understand what Jesus accomplished for us in his love and sacrifice for us.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd and he lays down his life for the sheep. He lays down his life – only to take it up again. Thank you for all that your love has done for us and goes on doing – so that we might have eternal life. AMEN

7: **Jesus Said: Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.' (Luke 23:46)** Father God, when we are darkness and feel that we do not know where to go or who to talk to you know that it takes faith even to talk to you, even if only to complain to you. Help us to hear in the last words of Jesus a model of prayer for us when we are afraid, sick, or facing death. Help us to know that you call us to a close relationship with you. Help us to know that we can call you Father. Help us to be able to pray these words to you.

I commit myself to you, O God. In my living and in my dying, in the good times and in the bad, whatever I am and have, I place in your hands, O God, for your safekeeping. AMEN

You are all in my Prayers

Stay Blessed & stay safe

Kind Regards,

Rev Peter Gill X