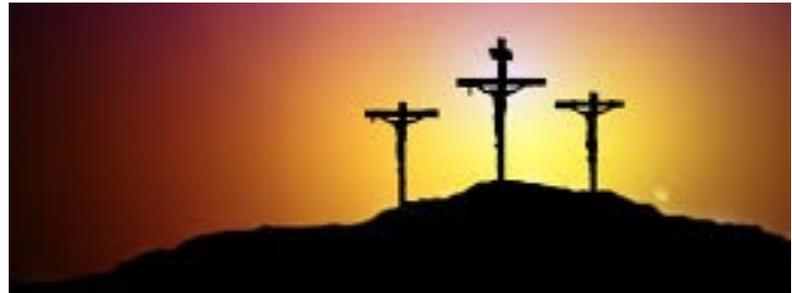


FDP HERALD

Fellowship of the Order of Dionysis and Paul Newsletter

Matthew 6:9 - 13

*Our Father who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name,
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy Will be done,
On Earth, as it is in Heaven,
Give us this day our daily bread,
And Forgive us our trespasses,
As we Forgive them who trespass
against us,
Lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil,
For Thine is the Kingdom,
The Power and the Glory,
Forever and Ever.
Amen.*



Forgiveness

As Christ died he asked for the forgiveness of the sins of the human race. In times of adversity and conflict it would seem that forgiveness is the last thing we would consider. The recent suicide bombings at Brussels airport by supposed Da'esh extremists perhaps demand our attention in other ways other than shock and retribution.

If what we have heard regarding at least one of the attacker's computer diaries is true, then perhaps he at least deserves a thought and a prayer for more than a moment. It would appear that this young man felt utterly trapped by his situation, so much so that death seemed the only way to end his spiral downwards into what must have been Hell for him. So far these men have not turned out to be the disenfranchised and forgotten strays of squalid dark suburban estates, but Engineering and Physics graduates, with one being the son of an Ambassador. What was it that was missing from their lives that so turned their Hearts against their fellow man? Their words do not seem to be turned towards the Divine, but weighed down by sorrow and fear of the material world.

Have we not all felt despair? Have we not all walked with blackened Hearts for a time? Have we not all felt cornered and lost? Have we had the chance to forgive and elected instead to lash out?

We can never know what drives at the Heart of some of these men who have found meaning in something that results in the destruction of their fellow human beings. Perhaps we should look to ourselves more than seeking blame elsewhere. For we are their brothers, and as brothers we have failed them - we should shed a tear for these lost sheep, as well as those whom they have destroyed. We must dig deep and find forgiveness in our Hearts for them, as Christ forgave us so long ago - "Forgive them Father, for they know not what they do". *ABJ*

Children of God

Pope Francis washed and kissed the feet of Muslim, Christian and Hindu refugees as a 'gesture of brotherhood'.

The Pope denounced Tuesday's terrorist attacks in Brussels as a "gesture of war" during an Easter week mass with asylum-seekers at a shelter outside Rome yesterday.

The Holy Thursday rite re-enacts the foot-washing ritual Jesus performed on his apostles before being crucified, and is meant as a gesture of service.

The Pontiff contrasted that gesture with the "gesture of destruction" carried out by the Brussels attackers, saying they wanted to destroy the brotherhood of humanity represented by the migrants.

"We have different cultures and religions, but we are brothers and we want to live in peace," he said.

Several of the migrants wept as Francis knelt before them, poured holy water on their feet, wiped them clean and kissed them. Male and female refugees took part in the ceremony, including Catholics from Nigeria, three Muslims from Mali, Syria and Pakistan, and a Hindu man from India.

The Vatican's new norms have said that anyone from the "people of God" could be chosen to participate in the ritual.

"All of us, together: Muslims, Hindi, Catholics, Copts, Evangelicals. But brothers, children of the same God," the Pope added.

*Independent

[Meditation & Daily Office Link](#)

Lectionary Readings

27 Mar	1 Cor 15 : 19 - 26	John 20 : 1 - 18
3 Apr	Rev 1 : 4 - 8	John 20 : 19 - 31
10 Apr	Rev 5 : 11 - 14	John 21 : 1 - 19
17 Apr	Rev 7 : 9 - 17	John 10 : 22 - 30
24 Apr	Rev 21 : 1 - 6	John 13 : 31 - 35

Meditations On Love

You have heard that it was said, "*You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.*" But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

[Matt. 5: 43 - 45]

No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

[Luke. 16: 13]

As the Father loved me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoke to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. This is My commandment, *that you love one another as I have loved you.*

[John 15: 9 - 12]

Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?" Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One. And you shall love the Lord your God with all you heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these."

[Mark. 12: 28 - 31]

O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.

[John. 17: 25-26]

B.J.

Anemone



Poets and writers of the classical world inform us that the origin of the Anemone is to be found in the death of Adonis, the beloved of the goddess Venus. Fatally wounded by a wild boar to which he had been giving chase, the wounded youth lay dying on the blood-soaked earth, when he was found by Venus, who overcome with grief determined that her stricken lover should live on as a flower. Thus, in pagan mythology it was often seen as a symbol of sorrow and death.

The English name for the Anemone is the Wind-flower as some of the species flourish in open places exposed to the wind, before which they shiver and tremble in the early Spring. As a herbal remedy it is thought to be a good analgesic and sedative.

According to Pliny, the magicians and wise men of old attributed extraordinary powers to the Anemone. The flower was highly esteemed by the Romans, who made wreaths of it to be worn about the head. It is thought to be sacred to Venus, although Culpeper attributes its rulership to Mars. Shakespeare suggested aphrodisiac powers to the Anemone. In *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Act 2) Puck places an Anemone flower on the eyes of Titania, who on awakening will fall in love with the first object she sees.

In Christian symbolism the Anemone is shown in scenes of the Crucifixion, or in conjunction with the Virgin Mary signifying her sorrow for the passion of Jesus Christ. The red spots on the petals are thought to signify the blood of Christ, and it is believed that anemones sprang up on Calvary on the evening of the Crucifixion. In the early Church, the trefoil structure of the leaf of this plant was used to symbolize the Holy Trinity. The altar is that place in our soul we call the heart. It is the central point of our being around which our consciousness gravitates. For many of us it is obscured by the thoughts, feelings and images that fill our minds. Nevertheless, it is there, the centre of our being, and upon it burns the divine flame of life that we associate with all things spiritual, including our understanding of God. From it we draw our strength and to it we offer our produce.

A.A.

Submissions Please

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