

## Lazarus Easter 2020

It is interesting to note that this event in the ministry of Jesus takes place as he is approaching Jerusalem and conflict.

Lazarus is raised from the dead

Called from the tomb

To go then

to a freedom that is perhaps is more difficult than the determined path of death.

The release of Lazarus from that which bound him

Did not mean that the pilgrimage of existence had concluded with this great event.

To come

Were the events of the garden of Gethsemane, the arrest, trial, crucifixion, and resurrection.

There was the ascent of Christ back to the Father, the establishment and persecution of the early church.

Plus the simple practical reality of food on the table, and a place to eat and sleep.

Many believe that poor Lazarus would have been much better in his comfortable old grave.

The faith that we share with the saints of two thousand years is not a means of avoiding the challenge.

Christianity does not promise the absence of conflict, but the skills and commitment to face it.

The great Saints such as Arch Bishop Oscar Romero did not retreat from the world as he was called from the comfort of an established and respectable church. The calling from the death of complacency, resulted in his opposition to government oppression. Pressurised to call his protests off, and silenced by an assassins bullet.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta was called from the security of her religious order to the very poorest of the century. The calling from this grave of self-willed ignorance, obliged this powerful and frightened woman to act. Not to triumph, but simply to do something beautiful for God.

St Edith Stein the German Jewish women who converted to Christianity, and died with her people at Auschwitz as a Carmelite religious. This woman was not called out of her mother's traditions to take the easy path. The painful move out of a life she no longer believed, brought not ease but rigorous intellectual and practical struggle.

Those who do not understand, believe that we are avoiding the world, by trusting in faith.

There are even those within the traditions of Christianity who seek only the comfort, and not the challenge.

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to a freedom that is perhaps is more difficult than the determined path of death.

You within a number of weeks will be called from your seclusion.

Much will have changed when you emerge to face a post-Corona world

Take up the challenge

And we shall overcome.