

Fourth Sunday Lent

“The Son of Man must be lifted up”

The crucifix is a core symbol of the Roman Catholic Faith.

On occasion the whole notion of suffering has dominated the perception of what we teach.

That is unbalanced

God is love

Christ came to redeem the world

Our faith is the means of liberation from the deception of the secular world

But it remains true

That the crucifix is at the heart of the revelation

That we do not wish suffering away.

We recognise the reality

We attempt to live that reality as Christ lived it.

Those who come out into the light

Are exposed to the dangers of the world

Those who are prepared to love someone will suffer

If the person they love is perfect then they will become painfully aware of their own failings

If they are perfect then the faults of the other will cut into the relationship.

If both are faulty then a commitment to love, involves a commitment to forgive and work with the issues.

Those who come out into the light

Are exposed to the dangers of the world

Those who take the risk will suffer

Christ exposed his practical love and the sentence of the world was condemnation

Crucifixion

The whole process of success is built upon failure

Those who never failed never did anything

And still failure hurts

With different degrees of severity

Failure hurts

Omelettes are not cooked without breaking eggs

Justice is not served without enforcement

Trade is not possible without profit

Progress is not possible without effort

Sacrifice

Suffering

As followers of Christ we do not hide from the reality

But are prepared to face it.

Those who come out into the light

Are exposed to the dangers of the world

The most difficult aspect of this is the inevitable consequence of our physical nature

If I fear anything I fear physical suffering

Even worse I fear the physical suffering of those I love

However

You shall die

And so shall I

And all that will be remembered of us is love

My faith means that I do not spend vast amount of money on youth rejuvenating face cream

I do not neurotically chart if I have eaten enough prunes

Or walk for the benefits of health instead of beauty

When I do suffer I hope that I can share that suffering with Christ

When I feel the pain I hope that I can share in the crucifixion

Nothing excluded

Nothing avoided

All in truth

All out into the light.

Those who come out into the light

Are exposed to the dangers of the world

Have faith

Do not be afraid

Come out into the light

And live