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Welcome to Father Vlad's Newsletter!

Hello and Welcome to Father Vlad's newsletter!

Let's stay in touch for updates on events and special seasonal messages! I will be glad to stay in touch, but if you prefer not to receive these messages, please unsubscribe below. Thank you.

If you have missed the previous newsletter, please follow this link: [Father Vlad's Newsletter 2nd April 2023](#)

Palm Sunday at Kensington Square Assumption Sisters Chapel - 2nd April 2023



Words after gospel before procession.

“For me, Holy Week which starts today, is a metaphor for a Christian life.

It begins with rejoicing at baptism and, after many unpredictable ups and downs, ends in death, our birth into resurrection and life with God in divine eternity.

It's the end, next Sunday, that gives me a perspective

A standpoint from which I look at my every day.

Holy Week reminds me that my whole life can be holy - if I stay in touch with God.”

Just before the final blessing, I said that I did not wish to distract the meditation of The Passion with my words. It was not laziness. I will hand out a guide to Holy Week as you leave after mass. This is the hand out text.

Passion Sunday, which in the earlier decades of my life, was always called Palm Sunday, can be seen as an overture for the whole of Holy Week which starts off in triumph on Sunday the first day of the week and, ending in disaster, enables the following week to begin in a far more magnificent triumph, The Resurrection.

Holy Week, is quite a week.

Monday, clearing of The Temple.

Tuesday, Jesus goes to the Mount of Olives where, on Thursday night, Judas will carry out his betrayal.

Wednesday, "Spy Wednesday" Judas plots his betrayal.

Thursday, the Last Supper, the first celebration of The Eucharist, followed by the arrest of Jesus - and Peter's betrayal.

Friday, Passion, Crucifixion and death of Jesus.

all, The Son of God: God in our human vernacular. Alleluia! He is Risen!

Our death will be

Our birth into divine eternity: life with God.

As last year, so this 2023 year, these services were attended by the Diocesan Deaf Service Members, in the Assumption Chapel on Kensington Square. W8 5HH.

Maundy Thursday

Tonight, we commemorate and celebrate the First Eucharist: Holy Mass and Holy Communion.

The Word "host – at Mass – is derived from the Latin hostia, which means 'sacrificial victim'.

Socially, a host is the person who receives and entertains other people as guests.

It struck me today, as I travelled on the tube, that, at Mass, Jesus is host in both of these meanings. He welcomes us into his own life – we consume him and we are what we ingest.

To love is to be a host. To welcome people into our lives and be there for them, give our time and energy for them, is to be like Jesus Christ.

Maundy Thursday gets its name from the Latin "Mandatum meum do vobis" – "I command you to love one another as I have loved you." (Jn 15,12)

To love is to appreciate, respect and serve: to be there for the beloved as Jesus is there for you and me.

"Love is patient and kind, ready to excuse, to trust, to hope – and endure whatever comes." (1 Cor 13,4...)

Good Friday Afternoon

In my experience, the best homily on Good Friday is silence as we imagine the awesome sufferings of Jesus Christ: the spitting, the striking, the scourging, the mockery, the crown of thorns, the nails and above all, his excruciating death on the cross so that we would have irrefutable evidence of God's love for each one of us.

Whenever I see myself in a mirror, I find it hard to believe that. But - thanks to God Friday - believe it I do.

Easter Sunday 2023

Today - remember the Jewish day starts at sunset – we commemorate and celebrate the world's most wonderful surprise. Death is birth into divine eternity.

Thanks to his resurrection, we know that Jesus had three stages of his life.

1st in his Mother Mary's womb.

2nd walking, talking, curing, laughing and crying as he worked and walked the Holy Land.

The 3rd. After his resurrection.

Thanks to God Incarnate in Jesus of Nazareth, The Christ, we know we too have these three stages.

The Choices we make will determine the quality of our life in eternity.

Providentially, we can always repent and - as the Good Thief on Calvary - end up in Paradise. "Today, you will be with me in Paradise."

Whenever friends – and these include my family – die, my grief of their loss is assuaged – as it were embraced - in my gratitude for their life on earth and congratulations on their reaching their final goal: life with the Blessed Trinity - forever.

I hope this Easter does indeed increase your hope – and thus enjoyment of your life.

Father Vlad on Radio Maria

Father Vlad first podcast on Radio Maria England released on 6th January this year. Follow the link to listen to the podcast!

[Radio Maria podcast - 6th January 2023](#)

Please visit www.fathervlad.com for more!

Don't forget to buy Father Vlad's book Life Squared!

As I approached my 80th birthday, I wanted to find out what I really thought about life. Writing this book has crystallised my experiences.

I now know better what I have learned and what I think.

Now, that I'm coming to the end of my life, I have finally learned how to live. Time's slippage nudged me to act on my dream of passing what I have learned on to others.

Father Vlad

To buy your copy of the book (£12.95+pp) please contact Father Vlad at:

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