

## GOOD FRIDAY – THE LORD’S PASSION

Is. 52:13-53:12; Heb. 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn. 18:1-19:42

(Excerpts of Pope Francis - General Audience - 01 April 2015)

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Brothers and sisters, in the final moments of his life, before giving up his spirit to the Father, Jesus said: “It is finished” (Jn 19:30). What do these words mean, when Jesus says: “It is finished”? It means that the work of salvation is finished, that all of the Scriptures have found their total fulfillment in the love of Christ, the sacrificed Lamb.

Jesus, by his Sacrifice, has transformed the greatest evil into the greatest love. Over the course of the centuries there have been men and women who by the witness of their lives reflected a ray of this perfect love.

There are many men and women, true martyrs who offer up their lives with Jesus in order to confess the faith, for this motive alone. It is a service, the service of Christian witness even to the pouring out of blood, a service that Christ **rendered** for us: he redeemed us to the very end. And this is the meaning of those words “It is finished”.

How beautiful it will be when we all, at the end of our lives, with our errors and our faults, as well as our good deeds and our love of neighbour, can say to the Father as Jesus did: “It is finished”; not with kind of perfection with which He said it, but to say: “Lord, I did everything that I could do. It is finished”.

Adoring the Cross, looking to Jesus, let us think of love, of service, of our lives, of the Christian martyrs, to think of the end of our lives. No one knows when that will be, but we can ask for the grace to be able to say: “Father, I did what I could do. It is finished”.

Brothers and sisters, during these days of the Holy Triduum, these three Holy days, let us not limit ourselves to **commemorating** the passion of the Lord, but *let us enter into the mystery*, making his feelings and thoughts our own.