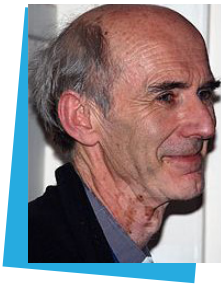
Life to the Full: Living faith within our families



Monthly newsletter for parents: **March 2018**



Darkest Hour

Fr Digby reflects on how what seemed like the 'darkest hour' for Christ has become a 'blaze of glory' for us all

A recent film entitled 'Darkest Hour' portrayed the period in history in 1940 when Britain faced the blitz, and profound political decisions about the way forward were made by Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

Similarly, 'Darkest Hour' could be a good description of Jesus' experience as he approached his passion, death and resurrection. This was his hour, the climax of his life on earth. In fact, the profound meaning of this 'victory of love' goes far beyond anything that has happened in human history.

Jesus could have backed away from his darkest hour at any time. However, through this apparent tragedy, Christ turned earthly values upside down. With mercy, he cried out, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." He was like the 'grain of wheat' which dies in order to produce fruit. The resurrection was already present in the death of Christ on the cross. By rising from the dead, Jesus opened the way to new life for us all.

Family life can throw up conflict from time to time. We have a choice as to whether we lock ourselves away and refuse to come out from behind our defences, or allow ourselves to be 'broken' and so 'produce fruit'. Sometimes, we might say to those around us, "Go away!" (here, the 'grain of wheat' remains only a single grain), at others, "Yes, I'm available and ready to be with you, to listen, to help," (the grain has allowed itself to be broken open and so produces a fruitful harvest).

Let's pray this Easter that when family life presents challenges, the Lord will show us how to have his merciful heart and that, by the gift of the Holy Spirit, we will begin afresh the new life of Easter.

What seemed like the darkest hour has indeed become a blaze of glory.

Holy Week

The mystery of Christ's passion, death and resurrection requires a deepening life of prayer to 'receive' it, let alone begin to understand it and help others in the family do the same.

One thing we can do as a family is try our best to get to a church for the Holy Week ceremonies. It starts with **Palm Sunday,** when Jesus is welcomed triumphantly into his own holy city of Jerusalem. The Gospel for that Sunday's Mass is the Passion narrative. Later in the week, **Maundy Thursday** marks the beginning of the Easter Triduum (the three holy days). This is the Mass of the Lord's Supper. That night we remember the Lord in the agony in the garden and we try and spend some prayer time keeping him company. The cruel judgements follow right up to **Good Friday** when the 'darkest hour' has come: Jesus ' final passion and death on the Cross. **Holy Saturday** is the quiet day of the Easter Triduum (the three holy days). Then there is the climax of joy, as the Church celebrates Jesus' resurrection from the dead. 'Alleluias' resound throughout the Liturgy and continue on until Ascension and Pentecost.

Prayer

Dear Lord,

Thank you for the grace of Lent. Show me and my family how best to prepare for Easter by letting go and allowing you to take over as we place each other trustfully into your hands. Through Christ, our Victorious and Risen Lord.

Amen



Ten Ten Resources is an online resource for Catholic schools and parishes throughout the UK. It is part of Ten Ten, a charitable organisation dedicated to bringing matters of faith to a wider public sphere by inspiring audiences to examine aspects of spirituality and life through drama and storytelling.

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