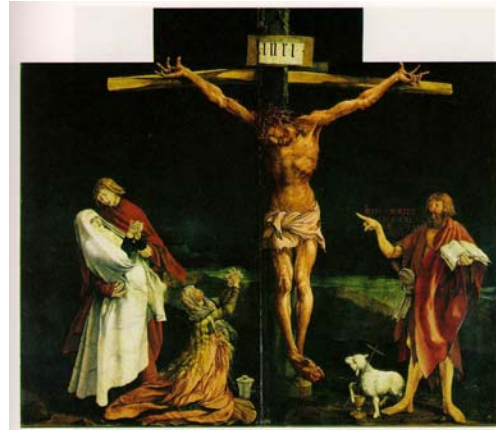


Second Sunday after the Epiphany, 2009

“Rejoice with them that rejoice; weep with them that weep; being of one mind one towards another”

(Rom. 12:15)

St Paul reminds us today of the wonderful gifts which God bestows on all members of His family. As we come to the end of our celebrations of the Epiphany – the revelation of the One Truth, by Him who is “truth itself” – we look forward to contemplating the Word made flesh as He fulfils the will of the Father throughout His life, death and resurrection — His Passion “for us men and for our salvation”.



February 25th is Ash Wednesday, beginning the Lenten season through which we are privileged to live with our Saviour, turning our minds every day to the Love He showed us in the great Sacrifice He offered on our behalf. It is about that Love that we question ourselves from now on.

In former times, Bishops issued pastoral letters drawing our minds to what it truly is to be a Catholic. Briefly: we do not live to ourselves, but with Christ and in Christ doing what we can for the salvation of souls; to live as active members of Christ's kingdom on earth. A good number of the pastoral letters of Archbishop John Charles McQuaid were fortunately preserved and compiled in a book *Wellsprings of the Faith*. This really shows us what a precious gift is the Faith and the need to nourish and foster and guard it. “To remain in Christ by grace there is an essential requisite that we keep His Commandments.” We must then try to estimate correctly the privilege of the Faith; in today's world in which we are called to live the circumstances demand a deeper understanding and a more constant loyalty in the children of the One True Faith. To study the gift of Faith is in fact to fix our gaze more closely on Our Divine Redeemer, Jesus Christ. For He is in His own words “The Truth”: the final revelation of God to mankind. Can we describe ourselves as “active, living stones in the building up of the Body of Christ, the Church”?

How much attention do we pay to getting to know the development of Church teaching? How much are we concerned about what is happening in the Church throughout the world? Do we realise the power of God's love in the heart of man, in our own selves? Faith must be hand-in-hand with the great virtue of love that comes from God. How many of us have heard of the great movements in the Church such as [Human Life International](#)? This one organisation alone can furnish us with the most up-to-date state of the war which is going on around us — not to express our horror, judge others and condemn; but to be able to take part in the actual battle to save lives

and souls. This is merely to mention one great evil amongst others. Emotions have been aroused in the highest places of world government — 470 deaths in Gaza! Yet, in the USA alone (going back on reports six years ago), 37 million have been slaughtered. That represents a whole nation — and the same highly-placed authorities are continuing their policy of population control. The darkness of evil leaves it blind to the very cause of the dreaded recession. If the future population is wiped out – the millions of future customers in commerce – can we be surprised at “over-production” which results in businesses closing down and wholesale unemployment? This shows the perversity of human thinking without God. Atonement is called for now — *at-one-ment* — for every one of us to be *at one* with Christ as He leads us through His sufferings to the triumph of the Cross.

We must continue this little-by-little as Lent approaches. We need the help of the only one who was perfectly one with her Divine Son in all His sufferings; Mary, our heavenly Mother will obtain for us the graces we need; through her Immaculate Heart — learning to gaze upon the face of our beloved Saviour; genuinely seeking to be one with Him.

[Back to Fr Brady's Homilies](#)