

**“Do this in memory of me.” – A phrase used wherever the Eucharist is celebrated every day in all the different languages of the earth.**

**A simple phrase; and yet, the depths of God’s love is enfolded in those six words.**

**When we hear it at Mass, does it stir our hearts, or go in one ear and out the other, and is then quickly forgotten?**

**I know as well as anyone how easy it is to take everything for granted; to forget all that the Lord has done, and is still doing, out of love for me.**

**Let’s call to mind the Lord’s promise to us: “I will not forget you! See, I have written your name on the palms of my hands.” Is. 49: 16**

**Hands, which bear eternally the Good Friday wounds of His love for us.**

**So, today, let us: “Call back into our memory the gifts we have received – creation, redemption, and other gifts [of grace] – so as to ponder with deep affection how much God has done for us.”**

**Pope Francis: Open Mind, Faithful Heart; p. 101**

**Then, memory isn’t something from the past that accompanies us like a dead weight; memory is the grace of the Lord’s presence in our present reality, reminding us of His: “Unfailing love and faithfulness.” Ex. 34: 6**

**In this present reality of this Eucharist, Fr Paul will say: “Do this in memory of me.”**

**With those words, the present reality of bread and wine will become the eternal reality of the Body and Blood of Jesus.**

**But, all of that is rooted in the memory of the Church; the Passion of the Lord on Good Friday.**

**The Eucharist is the recalling – the memory – of the Lord’s Passion: there in the Passion is the victory.**

**Today, the Day of the Resurrection – as is every Sunday – can’t be understood without the Cross.**

**In the Cross is the history of the world: grace and sin, mercy and repentance, good and evil, time and eternity.**

**‘Do this in memory of me’ reminds the Church of the word God speaks; the memory of His promise:**

**“Fear not for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name; you are mine.” Is. 43: 1**

**However, when the Church tries to live her life by side-stepping the Cross, we find ourselves shut in a dark tomb with the stone firmly rolled shut so that we can’t get out.**

**By trying to live the resurrection life without the cross; then we, like Satan, think we can do it alone; do away with Jesus.**

**We must never forget that: God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ.” Col. 1: 19**

**Jesus, Christ and Lord, really suffered and died on the Cross.**

**Jesus, Christ and Lord, really rose bodily from the dead.**

**Jesus, Christ and Lord, is really alive among us – today, here and now.**

**A single detail in the Gospel for today tells us that, and goes to the very heart of Easter.**

**“Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance.” Jn. 20: 1**

**The stone was rolled away!**

**But not just a stone across the entrance to a tomb: the Resurrection of Jesus means that the huge stone that separates us from God was rolled away and, in Jesus, the way is wide-open for us to receive our Father’s embrace.**

**It’s as though a room was shrouded in thick darkness, and Jesus rises to pull aside the blackout-curtain to flood the room with His light, to show us that eternal life is possible for all of us.**

**But, there is a doubt that darkens my Easter: can I really be changed, and filled with the Holy Spirit?**

**I might feel the stone in my life is too massive, too big for the Lord to roll away.**

**Last night, the Easter Vigil began in darkness, and that darkness represents all that's devoid of light: evil thoughts; whatever is hidden and secret, deceitful and dishonest, immoral and sinful. It's the darkness of the world, and the darkness in my heart.**

**The Easter Candle – symbol of Jesus rising from the dead – is lit, and carried into the darkness of the church.**

**Bit by bit, other candles take their light from it, and the light spreads out and overcomes the darkness.**

**The light we were given in Baptism – the light of Faith – will dispel the darkness, and roll the stone away.**

**We all come to Easter with our personal memories of failings and sins.**

**The unfailing mercy and faithfulness of God, in Jesus, gives us the grace to heal those memories.**

**The grace to let the light of Easter light up my life.**

**The grace to hear Jesus calling me by name, inviting me to discover a living, personal relationship with Him.**

**No better day than Easter Sunday to respond to that grace, so that Jesus can roll the stone in my life away**