



## Easter Triduum 2021

Holy Saturday

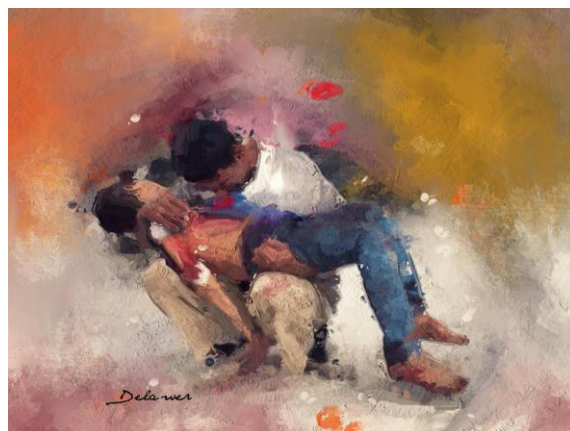
3rd April

### Silence between two cries

*“...He asked for Jesus’ body. Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid.”* (Luke 23: 52-53)

#### Introduction

Holy Saturday leads us into a time of silence between the cry of Jesus on the Cross and the cry that proclaims that Jesus has risen. This silence embraces all the silences of our world, so many unanswered questions and so many lives silenced... Let us live today in communion with all these realities. Let allow the Spirit to draw us into the great silence.



*“Pieta of Syria”* by Delawer Omar

#### Men and Women on Holy Saturday

As a doctor, I have treated hundreds of sick people. I have worked in cancer wards and in the AIDS ward, in one of the hospitals with the greatest number of AIDS patients in the city of Barcelona. I will begin with the latter. In the AIDS ward, I went on my own particular “walk through resurrection and death”. Death was an everyday occurrence. Almost each day some boy or girl died, to the despair of parents and health staff. All the experiences prompted me and the patients to ask many questions about suffering: Why is this happening to me? Where is God? Why does he send us this illness? What have I done to deserve it? (Testimony of a doctor)

I look at the world and I see such great pain, such enormous injustice...and, yet, for some time now, there is something in me like a little light, that stays with me always. Well, in those moments when I see nothing, when I understand nothing, I am only an atrocious suffering, and sometimes I do not want to live; well, even in that situation, that little light is there and something keeps pulling me onwards, even though I don’t know where that way leads. One thing I have learned, and that is to trust fully in what you called the fragile power of love. (Testimony of a mother)

An Iranian refugee, a translator on the Greek island of Lesbos, will never forget a woman he tried to help as soon as she had landed. “I saw that her stomach was swelling rapidly, and I shouted that we had to take her to hospital. During the whole route, I held her in my arms. The woman didn’t want us to help her, but wanted us to take care of her daughter. On the following day, I went to ask her family how she was. She didn’t make it. The journey is so dangerous, that many men opt to go alone, trying to find a safer way for their family to follow them - a brave plan that can be defeated by the strict family reunification policies in Europe.” (Testimony of a migrant)

## Music

Listen to the poem of St John of the Cross : “Dark night of the soul” sung by Loreena McKennitt: [CLICK HERE](#)

## In the spirit of Fratelli Tutti

“If only this immense sorrow may not prove useless, but enable us to take a step forward towards a new style of life. If only we might rediscover once for all that we need one another, and that in this way our human family can experience a rebirth, with all its faces, all its hands and all its voices, beyond the walls that we have erected.” (FT 35)

## As Artisans of Hope

The crosses and the wounds of our world, of our common home and those who live in it, cry out in silence ... We are aware and “it is evident in political, social, economic, cultural and religious structures that impose unequal power relations, favouring some while oppressing, impoverishing, and marginalizing others.” In addition, we are witnesses that “people, countries, and our common home – earth – are devalued and destroyed by various forms of structural violence”. (*Artisans of Hope*, p. 12)

## A Moment of Prayer

We can name these situations, and bring them confidently to our prayer. After each reality or situation we can sing the Taizé song: “By night we hasten in darkness”.

[CLICK HERE](#).

Women who are victims of trafficking  
Unaccompanied migrant minors  
Sick people who die alone  
Child soldiers  
People who are victims of climate catastrophes  
...

On this day of silence, we invite you to ponder in your heart:

***“Faced with these realities, of which I am possibly a part, should I remain in silence to listen to the voice of God, the voice of Hope?”***

Bow reverently in silence before them.

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