

Reflection March 17, 2024

5th Sunday of Lent John 12.20-33

“Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.” (John 12. 24).

According to the verse above, everyone will experience new life because of Jesus' death. It is symbolic that Jesus will die and be buried as a single grain, and since he was faithful to the very end, he will become the source of life for many. God created us and commanded us to bear fruit, but we cannot fulfill this task if we cling to the outside world and our outdated customs.

Strangely, the more we cherish and love our life here on Earth, the more we forfeit it for the next, which is a far greater loss.

In addition, Jesus suggests that we ought to die in our sins. But how do our sins perish? Because God pardons us when we ask for forgiveness. Our sins were also taken on by Jesus when he died on the cross. All that really means is that we must die, let go, and give up anything that prevents us from having more freedom to follow Jesus. Conversely, we also experience new life when we die to ourselves. But does it all seem simple enough? That isn't! The seed must fall to the earth before it can die, and it hurts to fall.

Someone in your family may be suffering from a very serious illness, or you yourself may be. Particularly in current times, you might have lost a significant portion of your funds or perhaps you are scared about losing your work. It's a horrible situation to be in. Furthermore, feeling unhappy, angry, or bewildered is normal. However, there might be a chance to encounter fresh life and a fresh relationship with God in all these difficult circumstances. I'm not suggesting that these terrible things are God's will or that you should accept or like them. However, we ought to pray for grace to make sense of them if they do occur. We should allow the wheat grains to die in these trying and painful events so that you might experience fresh life. Sometimes it's hard to let go of the aspects of your life that are keeping you down and uncomfortable. But there's always, always new life when that seed dies.