



**MIRROR OF LOVE (Good Friday 2020)**

The perfection of brotherly love lies in the love of one's enemies. We can find no greater inspiration for this than the wonderful patience of Jesus Christ we witness today. Jesus who is fairer than the sons of men offered his fair face to be spat upon by sinful people. He allowed those eyes that rule the universe to be blindfolded by wicked people. He bared his back to the scourges. He submitted his head to the sharpness of thorns. He gave himself up to be mocked, reviled and at the end endured the Cross, the nails, the lance, the gall, the vinegar but always remaining gentle, meek and full of grace. In short, he was led like a sheep to be slaughtered, like a lamb before the shearers, he kept silent and did not open his mouth. Today we could listen to that Prayer so full of warmth, of love and of unshakeable serenity. Father, forgive them. He embraced the enemies with overflowing love. Father forgive them. Is there any lack of gentleness and love in this prayer?

Yet, he put something more into it. It was not enough to pray for them but he wanted also to make excuses for them. Father, forgive them...they know not what they are doing. They are great sinners, yes but they have little judgement. Therefore, forgive them. Had they known, they would never have crucified me...therefore forgive them. They thought I was a lawbreaker...an imposter. I had hidden my face from them. They did not recognise my glory. So forgive them.....

If someone wishes to love himself, he must not allow himself to be corrupted by indulging in sinful nature. If he wishes to resist the promptings of his sinful nature he must enlarge the horizon of his love to contemplate the loving gentleness of the humanity of the Lord. If he wishes to savour the joy of brotherly love with greater perfection and delight, he must extend even to his enemies the embrace of love. But if he wishes to prevent this fire of divine love from growing cold because of injuries received, let him keep the eyes of his soul always fixed on the serene patience of the beloved Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

PER CRUCEM ET PASSIONEM TUAM  
LIBERA NOS DOMINE (3) DOMINE.

May we receive this day of penance as your gift Lord, and give it back to you through our works of mercy. By your death, raise us to life. Amen.