

Preston, Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Easter

“I go to the Father<sup>1</sup>”

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.

On this 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Easter, Jesus invites us to go to Paradise, and received, according to our merits, the imperishable crown, which is already ready, and only waiting for each one of us in Heaven. That is why He went to the Father before us, accompanied with all the Saints of the Old Testament. This little while which Our Lord is talking about could be understood as the entire history of the Holy Church, but also as our own single story. What is our age, compared to God's eternity?

This little while is a gift from Jesus, to obtain the crown of the saints, to find out peace. Peace not only in our exterior relationships, in not being at war with our neighbour. A peace much different than the end of this terrible conflict which we are celebrating today in unveiling this plaque commemorating the loss of those who lost their life in fighting for the country. But a peace from and by God only, when all would be living in harmony, because all united by Christian Charity.

This is what's happen when God's call to be his truly and devoted servant is heard and served. Look at what happened 80 years ago: A peace was signed, crushing the terrible ideologies that devastated minds and lands, but just after, another war was profiling, whether warm or cold, but red as blood, and still last today in a few unhappy countries of our world. The Lord multiplied calls for a true peace, based upon charity and humility, sending His Mother, but the world didn't, or partially listen. Peace is not only an absence of war, but the reign of justice, which can only be Christ' justice, when everything is well ordered, following the words of St Augustine.

You would say to me, quoting Jesus' words, that it is useless to try to convert the world, as it belongs to the prince of darkness, and that it will have an end, which hopefully won't be ours. However, we have to make our way through it, calling for our real country, which is Heaven, in living according to God's Charity. All this is enclosed into the first encyclical letter that we read as the epistle of this mass. In his first letter, St Peter urges us to excellency in all our doings and gave us the real definition of freedom: “not as making liberty a cloak for malice, but as the servants of God. Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king<sup>2</sup>”.

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<sup>1</sup> Jn., 16, 16.

<sup>2</sup> 1 Pet., 2, 18.

This is how we may use this little while. Practicing Charity is a real hard task, and we are in need of this time in this vale of tears. Let's turn towards the risen Christ, for his Divine Love to take our soul and life with Him. In being all with Him, whom should we fear? In being with Him, how could we fail? This is how our sorrow and suffering here and now, would be turn into joy: joy to be united with Jesus, joy to suffer and offer with Him, joy and hope to see Him one day, and receive for ever this peace we are all longing for. Then only, our wishes would become true, the peace of God would be truly with us.

As the Pope said a couple of days ago, and as I heard him saying while I was on St Peter's square, the peace we are expecting "is the peace of the risen Christ. A peace that is unarmed and disarming, humble and persevering. A peace that comes from God, the God who loves us all, unconditionally<sup>3</sup>."

Humility and donation of yourself will help you to live and obtain God's peace. The least you think about you and your selfish needs, the more God will have a part, or better, your entire life. In Him is the source and essence of all consolation. With Him we should remain. By Him only we should live this little while. And since God's graces and gifts are made without return, no one shall take it of us.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2025-05/pope-leo-xvi-peace-be-with-you-first-words.html>