

## HOLY WEEK REFLECTION - *Tuesday of Holy Week*

“My appointed time draws near.” (Matthew 26:18)

I once received a Christmas card from my godmother that had a photograph of Jesus on the Cross. At the time, it seemed a little macabre and even odd to showcase the death of Jesus when we were supposed to be anticipating the joy of His birth. But as I thought more deeply about the message, I realise it was likely the most important one of all: Jesus was born so that He would die for us. That is the sole reason the Father sent Him to earth.

We always think of Lent as being the most appropriate time to really meditate about Jesus' Passion, but throughout the rest of the liturgical calendar, we seldom give it much thought. It seems fitting that we should, in some way, celebrate Lent all year long. In fact, it should be very much a part of our everyday prayer – to recall with fond appreciation and immense love that Jesus was born so that we might be born to eternal life. And life has a high price.

As the “appointed time draws near” for entering into Jesus' death, we might do well to ask Him how we can console His Heart every day from this point onward. It is our gift of gratitude for the price of love.

**READING – JOHN 12: 20-36** read this slowly, and try to imagine yourself there as this was happening)

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’ Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

‘Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—“Father, save me from this hour”? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.’ Then a voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it,

and I will glorify it again.’ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, ‘An angel has spoken to him.’ Jesus answered, ‘This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.’ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. The crowd answered him, ‘We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains for ever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?’ Jesus said to them, ‘The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.’