

## **'SEVEN LAST WORDS OF JESUS'**

### **Reflection 3**

#### **'My God, my God why have you deserted me?'**

**(Mark 15:33-4)**

'My God, my God why have you deserted me?' 'There is no tidy, rational way to explain suffering.' We all suffer. At times we experience pain, fear, moments of despair. God may seem far away, our prayers unheard, unanswered.

God does not give us an answer to the mystery of suffering, but he gives us 'a way to find the answer... it is the cross that will reveal it, but it has to be a personal discovery. We cannot begin to see pattern and purpose unless we have known the cross and blindly let Jesus lead us from despair into hope.'

'My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?' these words spoken from the cross reveal 'the depth of sadness, the anguish of the soul of Christ, forsaken, forgotten even by God himself.' 'How he who was God could experience such pain, know such abandonment, such emptiness, we do not know. We can only ponder upon the fact in silent prayer.' But when we ourselves experience pain, emptiness, abandonment 'then we are surely one with him. His darkest moment, and ours, is one darkness.' He knows, He understands. He is with us in our suffering. 'Into that darkness comes his light, not ours, but given to us to be our peace.'

### **Prayer**

Dear Father God, when all is darkness, emptiness too.

Help me to abandon my heart to you, even when I see no point in doing so.

May this be my gift to you, a precious gift, to the Father who seeks above all my trust.

Then Lord, my emptiness is filled, inner wounds healed, and peace achieved.

Amen.



**At times of suffering and darkness ‘we can do no more than just look at the crucifix – but we can do no better, for then it will give up its ‘secret.’ It will speak to us – in our misery – of hope and of encouragement.’**

This reflection is with reference to, and with quotations from Chapter 4, of ‘Seven Last Words’ by Cardinal Basil Hume. The prayer is an adaptation of verses 4 & 5 of the Cardinals poem.