

*Can you drink the cup that I must drink?*

Can you drink the blood of the Lord? Can you absorb into your body, into your blood stream, the very essence of just who Jesus is?

Are you ready to share his suffering, to be a part of his Passion, to allow his love to completely overwhelm you?

Can you *be baptised with the Baptism with which I must be baptised*? Are you prepared to come with me to Jerusalem? Will you pray with me in the garden? Will you climb with me the hill of Calvary? Will you *offer your life in atonement*?

Baptism for Jesus is not a one-off sacrament that instantly transports us to eternal life. Baptism is a movement, a process, a journey, an opening up to a wholly new life, a new way.

Sharing in the cup of the Lord, sharing in the Eucharist, is not just for our own spiritual benefit, and certainly doesn't give us any rights or privileges.

We come to Mass to be slaves and servants, slaves and servants of one another, slaves and servants of this our community and slaves and servants of humanity as a whole.

Humanity is in a mess. Our western European civilisation has lost its soul. And wherever we look suffering is being inflicted on the weakest and the most vulnerable.

How to redeem this mess? How to regain our soul? How to make sense of all the suffering? Is Isaiah right? Is the Lord *pleased to crush his servants with suffering*?

There are no shortcuts, no analgaesics to soften the blow, no magic formulae to make everything better again. All we have is the death of the Lord, his Baptism and the cup of his blood, *his life as a ransom for many... his life in atonement*, taking the faults of many upon himself and becoming the *supreme high priest who has gone through to the highest heaven*.

This is what Mass is, going *through to the highest heaven* in and with Jesus, passing through suffering and death, trying to bring with us, as best we can, the whole of the human family, and to offer that family to God on the altar of heaven.

*The cup that I must drink you shall drink, and with the baptism with which I must be baptised you shall be baptised*. We will be part of Christ's great work of redemption. We will be part of that *ransom for many*, the atonement of sin and the at-one-ment with God himself, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.