



## *Unconditional love*

A little four year old girl was dying of a very rare disease. Her one hope was in having a blood transfusion, and the only possible person who could give matching blood was her six year old brother. The paediatrician handling the case talked very sensitively to the little boy. "your little sister is very sick" she said, "and we think that if we can take out some of your blood and put it into her it might make her better. Would you willing to let us take it?" the little boy paused for a moment and then nodded his head in consent. A few days later when the little boy came back with his parents to visit his sister they met the paediatrician. She said to him, "it is so wonderful! Your blood saved your sister, she is going to be all right now." but the little boy's eyes filled with tears and he burst out crying. The doctor asked him what was wrong? "when" he asked her, "am I going to die?" all the time he had believed that he himself was going to die in giving his blood for his little sister but he had been willing to do it!

Today's Gospel tells us of this kind of love, "God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but may have eternal life." Believing in that Son and in that Father is not always easy. Particularly for those who lose their family members, even children in death, for those who suffer some kind of terminal illness; it is indeed very hard to see God's love and goodness behind it all. But God so loved the world that he sent his own son to be part of the world's conditions and he himself suffered grievously. Jesus whom God sent showed us by word and example where our freedom lay; in suffering gracefully in the face of the inevitable.

Jesus came into the world as a light—"but people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. For whoever does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God." the great, mysterious truth of God needs to be brought into the light. It is always there like the sunlight behind the clouds. Just as it is often hard for us to believe in the sunlight during a typhoon, so too it is often hard to believe in God's love in times of calamity. Let us pray that our faith will help us not so much to see different things, but to see everything differently.



*"The Son of Man must  
be lifted up .....  
everyone who believes  
may have eternal life in him."*