



Enrich ourselves

The last Sunday of Lent invites us to contemplate on the meaning of Jesus' life, suffering and death: "unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain." One night at the end of July 1941, a prisoner escaped from a notorious concentration camp Auschwitz; next morning ten prisoners were chosen to die in his place. One prisoner cried loudly because he still had a young wife and a few young children. Father Maximilian Kolbe, a Franciscan priest listened to his crying, he said to the German officer: "I am willing to take the place of this man." "Why do you want to die?" He asked. "because I am a catholic priest" was the reply. While starving to death Fr Kolbe continued to help other condemned prisoners prepare for their death. "if it dies, it bears much fruit." Fr Kolbe's death has shown forth his love for others and to glorify God. He imitated Jesus' action, who used his life, suffering and death to redeem us. Even though Jesus was faced with temptation to preserve his life, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." However through prayer, Jesus recognised the presence of the Father's eternal life dwelling in him and he committed himself to His Father's will even if it meant he would suffer and die. It must have been clear to Jesus that death hides the mystery of life, and this mystery is revealed if one does not hold on to his natural life. "My soul is troubled now. Father, save me from this hour?" still Jesus chose to trust in God and to glorify God's name, he let go of his fear.

Let us pray that during this last week of Lent, we will contemplate on the example that Jesus sets. He willingly surrenders himself to the Father's desire. It is an act of the heart and will, an intelligent choice to renew his relationship with the Father. May we have the courage and grace to leave behind our hatred, selfish, pride, fear, doubt that prevent us from having a true relationship with Jesus and enrich ourselves with trust, generosity, courage and love.