

**April 6, 2007**

**Good Friday**

**Isaiah 52:13-53:12**

**Hebrews 4:14-5:9**

**John 18:1-19:42**

Driving down Alicia Parkway from Aliso Viejo toward the freeway, O'Connor's Mortuary is on the left, just past the Laguna Hills Community Center. Some days the parking lot is empty and apparently nothing is happening within. On other days, a hearse is parked outside and solemnly dressed people are huddled in small groups, many of them comforting each other and daubing at their eyes with tissues and hankies. The busy cars on Alicia, zipping to and from the freeway do not pause to pay respect. Those gathered at the mortuary pay no heed to the passing traffic. This little scene of life is somewhat remarkable, if not unusual; for the funeral/death of whomever that so affects those gathered to mourn within the mortuary has no impact on those passing in the cars on Alicia. For those in the cars, the deceased is not someone they know. It is not their mother or father, not their brother, sister, son, daughter, friend or spouse. The deceased has no impact on them, thus, they go about their day. Death co-exists with life, life continues even as death is commemorated and pondered. Today, in the midst of our individual lives we people of Christian faith ponder the death of the man from Nazareth whose birth we celebrated back on Christmas. Yet, even as we somberly consider the day and perhaps come forward to touch the wooden cross we are nonetheless busy with living life. In the presence of Calvary we are planning our Easter meals and family celebrations. While still within the shadow of the cross we are pondering what to do with the kids during Spring Break. Perhaps even last minute runs to See's Candy or to Honey Baked Hams are on today's/tomorrow's agenda? The malls are still functioning, our iPods still blasting, the gas stations are still pumping, the theaters are still projecting...in the midst of Good Friday, life continues unabated. Still, Good Friday begs the question, what sort of people are we? Especially we who say we are trying to be disciples of Jesus. Are we the people gathered within the mortuary or are we the people unaffected passing in the cars? Do our lives indicate a personal affiliation with the deceased, or is the death of Jesus just another event we peripherally notice in passing as we hurry from one event to the next? Today a man has died. Did you know him? Do you have a favorite story of him you wish to share? What will your life be like in his absence? How did he impact your life? How did he look at you that made you feel special? What were the favorite things you shared? What about him made you laugh? What about you made him laugh? Today a man has died. Did you know him?

Thank you for sharing our Good Friday experiences here at Corpus Christi with our community. You are reminded that the conclusion of Triduum (one Mass – three days) concludes with the Easter Vigil tomorrow evening at 7:00 p.m. For those of you planning on sharing Easter Sunday with us, please remember that we have only TWO OUTDOOR Easter Morning Masses at 8:30 a.m. and again at 11:00 a.m. Please dress in accord with the weather. As you depart to ponder the events of Good Friday, remember, you are loved. FKB