

The Triumph (or Exultation) of the Cross

■ Numbers 21: 4-9 ■ Philippians 2: 6-11 ■ John 3: 13-17

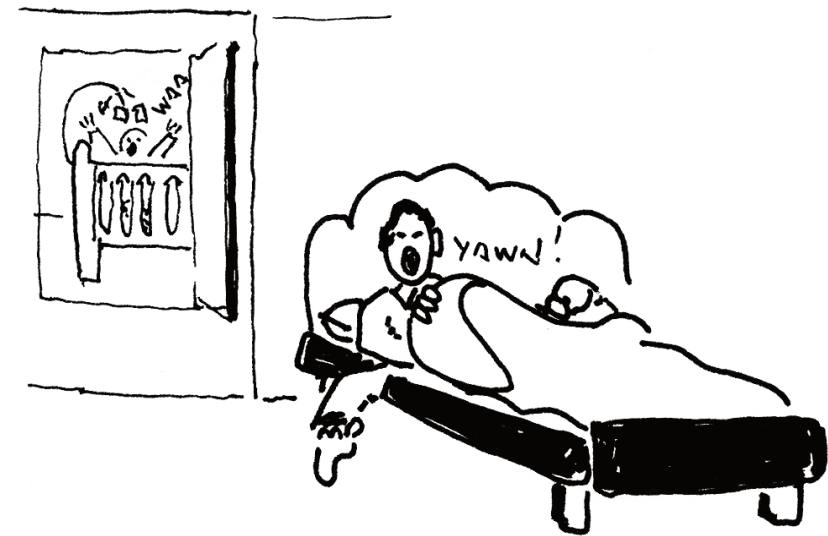
Love can overcome everything: it is a decision

The words 'TRIUMPH' and 'CROSS' seem uncomfortable bedfellows lying uneasily together, but in much of life and faith truth can often be found in paradox. Many sentiments from today's Readings resonate with the 'truth' of life that is lived out in relationship. In the first reading we hear of people losing patience and questioning why they are in the mess they find themselves in. The second reading talks about becoming subservient, of humbling oneself, of dying a 'death' to selfishness which ultimately leads to new life, new hope and a new beginning. The Gospel reading shows that love can overcome everything when we believe in that love. These are all recurring realities of the challenges and joys of married life.

We can sometimes lose patience with the ones we love and question the quality of our relationship. We can ask ourselves why our spouse sometimes says the things they do, and this can lead us to think "Is this the best I can hope for? Isn't it about time he or she learned to do this, that, or the other?" There are times when, for the sake of love, we deny our own preferences, keeping our thoughts and opinions to ourselves and this can lead to us 'suffering' the sense of losing our own identity. Yet it is through such experiences, when we make the decision to believe in the other person and the love we share, that we discover the new life that Jesus promised.

This is the paradox, in the ebb and flow of relationship. Such are the graces to be found in and through the Sacrament of Marriage. When we paraphrase the Gospel ending we see that as husband and wife we were 'sent' to one another, not to condemn each other, but that, through our Sacrament of Marriage, we might be saved and so might those we love.

B&M



The decision to love

PRAYER

Lord, we pray that we may deepen our belief in one another and may more readily recognise each others goodness and beauty. Help us to affirm and encourage each other more often so that in, through and with our love you may be honoured and glorified.

Amen.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

■ Revelation 11:19 ■ I Corinthians 15:20-26 ■ Luke 1:39-56

Our joys, trials and sufferings

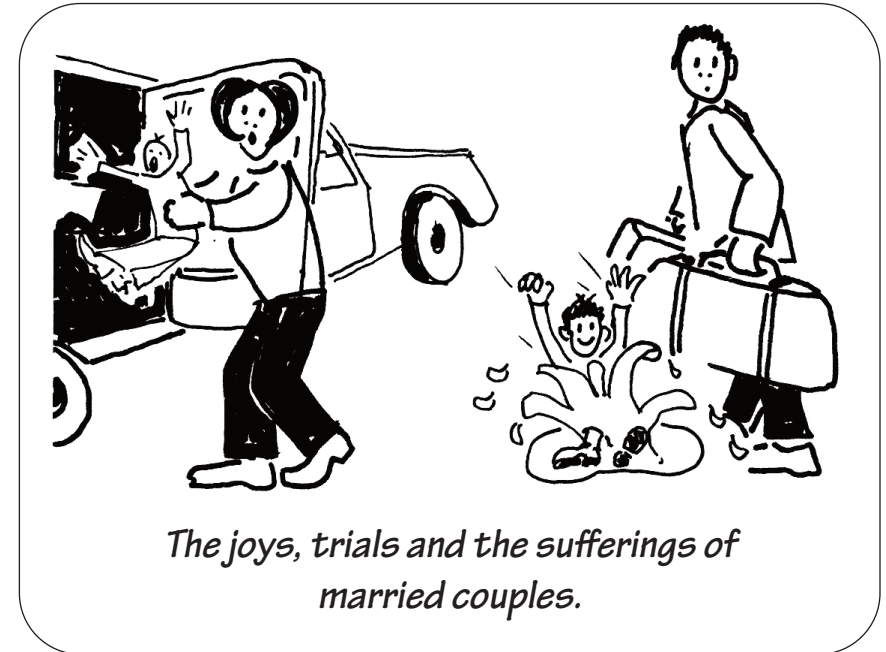
On this Feast of the Assumption we celebrate the belief that because she was conceived without sin in the womb of her mother Anne, Mary did not suffer the penalty for sin, the corruption of her body, but was taken up body and soul into heaven immediately after her death.

In the Second Reading, Paul says the resurrection of Jesus is 'the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep, and then, all who belong to him' will be resurrected. Mary was the first of these. The First Reading presents Mary in heaven as the woman who brought forth a male child (Jesus) and is now crowned with twelve stars (symbols of the twelve Apostles) in heaven, 'where God had made a place for her'.

In the Gospel account of her great hymn, the Magnificat, Mary prophesies that 'all generations will call me blessed, for the almighty has done great things for me'

We have good reasons for believing that from her special place in heaven God continues to do great things through Mary. Her own experience of life on earth has made Mary very aware of the joys, trials and sufferings of life for married couples. This means we can turn to her with confidence whenever we are in need of her help.

FOS



The joys, trials and the sufferings of married couples.

PRAYER

Mary, our Mother, we thank you for all the blessings we have received in the past through the help of your prayers.

We know that your prayers are powerful with your Son, so we turn to you with confidence asking your prayers for... (mention any special need).

Amen.

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

■ I Kings 19: 4-8 ■ Ephesians 4: 30 – 5: 2 ■ John. 6: 41-51

Enabled to love as God loves us

On our wedding day, through His sacramental blessing, the Father draws us to Himself. As scripture points out 'The Holy Spirit of God has marked us with His seal in order to set us free.' In this way we are enabled to love each other as He loves, wholly, completely, deeply.

When we promised to love each other on our wedding day, we became that very special and unique love relationship; a married couple. When we strive to love each other as Jesus loves us, we become a fragrant offering to God. Together, strengthened by the Bread of Life, our married love is transformed into a sign of the presence of God, for everyone we come into contact with, here and now!

M&M



A married couple and God loves us

PRAYER

Lord, bless and strengthen our love for each other in the everyday messiness of our lives. We ask this so that our children and others might experience this same love which you give.

Amen.

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M&M

A MARRIED COUPLE AND
GOD LOVES US



PRAYER

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Amen.