



Podcast for Via Lucis, the Way of Light Easter 2021

Mgr Daniel McHugh

Journey of Faith - Life from Holy Mass - with Monsignor Daniel McHugh

Hello, I am Monsignor Daniel McHugh.

Recently I produced a Podcast on the Stations of the Cross, a Popular Devotion that is so much part of Lenten Prayer in the Catholic Church, complementing the Scripture Readings in the Sunday Liturgy. Later in Holy Week, I celebrated an “online” Stations in the Pandemic especially for those who were not able to get to Church. I was fortunate to have pictures of the beautiful Stations from Christ the King Church in Coventry, taking up part of the “screen” providing a focus for reflection and prayer.

Many Celebrants these days add a fifteenth Station focusing on the Resurrection of Jesus to conclude the Way of the Cross, so bringing the Paschal Mystery to its completion.

I was delighted recently to hear of the Via Lucis, the Way of Light, which complement the 14 Stations sometimes known by the Latin name Via Crucis, the Way of the Cross. This Popular Devotion also called the Stations of the Resurrection is of more recent origin, being first celebrated publically at the Catacombs of St Callistus on the outskirts of Rome in April 1990 - so appropriate as the Martyrs gave their lives for belief in the Resurrection of Jesus. The popularity of this Devotion has grown quickly, and already in December 2001, when the Holy see promulgated a Directy on Popular Piety and the Liturgy, it commended the Via Lucis as follows:

“The Via Lucis is a growing Devotion of Contemplation. [It] is potentially an excellent pedagogy of the Faith, since...using the metaphor of a journey, the Via Lucis moves from the experience of suffering, which in God’s plan is part of life, to the hope of arriving at man’s true end: liberation, joy, and peace, which are essentially Paschal values.”

The online Catechetical resource Aleteia has just published a Via Lucis offering Gospel Passages of the Resurrection appearances for the 14 Stations, illustrated by some of the greatest artists of all time.

The Via Lucis is particularly suited for the weekdays of the Easter Octave and throughout the Fifty Days of the Easter Season.

At Mass on Easter Sunday I spoke of the need to proclaim our Faith in the Resurrection of Our Lord, and this Devotion will help us. I was responding to the experience I had in the local Post Office last week where the lady behind the counter said “people here don’t know anything about Holy Week, Easter or the Resurrection...it is all commercial. We Muslims respect Jesus, we know about the Resurrection”. I had to agree: this Devotion will strengthen and deepen our Faith in the great mystery of the Resurrection of Our

Monsignor Daniel McHugh

Co-ordinator for Ethnic Chaplaincies in the Archdiocese



THE ARCHDIOCESE *of* BIRMINGHAM

Ethnic Chaplaincies

Lord as it gathers together so many Resurrection Appearances attested to in the Scriptures.

We will find ways of making it known, and passing it on to future generations.

The reading is from St John's Gospel, Chapter 20 verses 1-9.

The Prayer is the Collect for Easter Sunday.

Thank you for listening. You can find more Podcasts from the Archdiocese of Birmingham on www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/podcasts

Monsignor Daniel McHugh

Co-ordinator for Ethnic Chaplaincies in the Archdiocese