

A QUESTION OF FAITH

By AJP

No.8 : Redemption

It's almost as if God thought, 'I've made the mess. I need to sort it out.'
Only He could redeem us of our sins.

He came. 'to give his life as a ransom for many.' Mt20:28 ... He 'Loved his own to the end.' Jn 13:1, so that they might be ransomed from the futile ways inherited from their fathers.' 1Pt 1:18.

St Augustine, who had been a great sinner, realised the wonder of how sin could be turned into something so salvific. He inspired the phrase we sing at the Easter Vigil; "O truly necessary sin of Adam, which the death of Christ has blotted out!
O Happy Fault that merited such and so great a Redeemer!"

Many religions offered sacrifice to their gods. Something of this world handed over to god to make up for sin. Jesus became the sacrificial victim Himself. The lamb of God. To make up for our turning from God, one man, completely at one with God, gave up everything for us all in complete obedience with the Father. And because He is God, His offering was perfect.

Our main Christian symbol is a CROSS. An instrument of extreme painful public torture and death. Not a thing of comfort. We believe that it was precisely His dying on the cross that has saved us.

God could have saved us with a 'wave of the hand'. But He chose to become part of His creation and redeem us from within. This is the mystery of God's almighty love for us.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.' Jn 3:16

'Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.' Jn 15:3
We can only marvel, say 'Thank you.' and join Him in his redeeming work.

'These reflections are loosely based on 'Catechism of the Catholic Church' 1994 where you can find more. But please do ask questions or share your knowledge to help us all build our Faith'