What makes Good Friday so powerful is that this mercy didn't come easily. It was costly, paid for in blood. It was a mercy that bore scars. Jesus' sacrifice bridged the gap between a holy God and a broken humanity, offering us grace, hope, and eternal life. He took on the punishment we deserved and gave us the reconciliation we could never earn.

Through Christ's sacrifice, we also see that our own suffering is not without meaning. No pain is wasted, and no soul is beyond redemption. In His mercy, we are called to extend that same mercy to others, even when it feels difficult, even when it's undeserved. Because we have been shown mercy in its most powerful form, we are invited to share it with the world.

So, yes, Good Friday is a day of sorrow, but also a day of hope. It's a divine paradox: death giving way to life, justice being fulfilled through mercy, and the darkest day becoming the brightest news for humanity. Good Friday is not just the story of a crucifixion—it's the story of a love that never gave up on us. That's why it's good. I personally believe that the name Good Friday is entirely appropriate because as terrible as that day was, it had to happen in order for us to receive the joy of Easter. The wrath of God against sin had to be poured out on Jesus, the perfect sacrificial substitute, in order for forgiveness and salvation to be poured out to the nations. Without that awful day of suffering, sorrow, and shed blood at the cross, there would be no hope of forgiveness and redemption to those who put their trust in Christ.

The cross is where we see the convergence of great suffering and God's forgiveness. **Psalms 85:10 sings of a day when "righteousness and peace" will "kiss each other."** The cross of Jesus is where that occurred, where God's demands, his righteousness, coincided with his mercy. We receive divine forgiveness, mercy, and peace because Jesus willingly took our divine punishment, the result of God's righteousness against sin. "**For the joy set before him" (Hebrews 12:2)** Jesus endured the cross on Good Friday, knowing it led to his resurrection, our salvation, and the beginning of God's reign of righteousness and peace.

Good Friday marks the day when wrath and mercy met at the cross. Amen.

Rev. Canon Nejib Boumenjel