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Martin Kelly

The Cross and Resurrection Holy Week 2019

June 2019

The Cross and Resurrection

Holy Week 2019

Martin Kelly

Monday, Paris

The cross radiant, ever present,
alive with resurrection
raised on the altar in Notre Dame
amidst embers and ashes
of man's glorious achievement,
beside a weeping Seine
sharing a history
of sacred, secular,
saintliness, desecration.

Holy Thursday, Derry

Echoes of Jerusalem's
Imperial, Religious violence.
Christ the Innocent Victim
on the side of all victims,
Lyra, pursuer of truth and justice,
latest victim in a long line.
Politicians scramble for survival,
suspect exploiters of sorrow.

Easter Sunday, Sri Lanka

Again, the cross bloodied,
dismembered corpses strewn
in pieces amid pews of prayer,
torn lives of the living,
echoes of Christchurch,
savagery of righteousness,
poisoned minds and hearts.

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Off-shoots of Calvary
continue to sprout
though the stone of death
is removed forever.
Love, Forgiveness, Life
are triumphant in Christ.

Courage and the Future. Despite all the difficulties the Church is facing, if it changes itself where change is needed, with the same courage and insight that the apostles and elders showed at the Council of Jerusalem, it can then go out to take the Christian faith to all the nations in all cultures and circumstances with confidence and power.

Do not fear for I am with you.
Do not be dismayed for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you.
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
Do not be afraid, it is I who helps you,
says the Lord, your ransom,
the Holy One of Israel. (Isaiah 41:14)

– MICHAEL KNOWLES, *The Meeting that Changed the World*
(Durham, England: Sacristy Press) p.354