



Current Issues in Prayer

June 2020

Welcome! The Pope invites people of good will to come together and pray **that all those who suffer may find their way in life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus.**



Getting started:

I find a quiet place and think about what it means to live in suffering.



Short story:

Sr Clare Crockett had a way of explaining suffering to the deprived teenagers at the mission in Playa Prieta in Ecuador. She presented suffering not as deprivation, a loss or a destruction, but as a consecration. This Irish girl was touched by the Heart of Jesus when she entered the Servant Sisters of the Home of the Mother in 2001, at the age of 18.



Earlier in life, Sr. Clare had turned her back on a promising life of success. Her beautiful voice, great artistic talent and astounding personality gave her the qualities of an upcoming movie star – a dream she wanted to fulfil. At the age of 15, Sr. Clare had already been contracted to host a show for young people on Channel 4 – one of the biggest in the UK. But Sr. Clare chose the infinite value of love, to be close to those who suffer and help them find the Way of the Heart. Singing and playing the guitar wherever she went, her hard work gave meaning to the suffering of the poor and the destitute. A nun close to her once said: *“I still do not know what things she liked to do and what things were hard for her”*.

Sr. Clare’s life was cut short when at the age of 33, she died in the collapse of the Holy Family School’s main building, as a result of an earthquake. So strong was her love for Jesus that those who survived recounted what she convincingly said on the day of the tragedy: *“Why should I be afraid of death, if I’m going to go with the One I have longed to be with my whole life?”*



Time to reflect:

Suffering is part of the human condition. But some people have a heavier cross to carry and yet look beautiful, feel peaceful and are hopeful. They smile not because they are insensible, but because they are great in the mind. They have managed to find meaning in their sufferings. I think about the meaning that suffering gives to my life in the light of Jesus who suffered on the cross.



Let us pray:

Lord, we offer you our hurt, pain and all suffering. Help us discover the greatness of Your Heart by guiding us onto Your Way.



Inspiration:

If we are to grow in love, the prisons of our egoism must be unlocked. This implies suffering, constant effort, and repeated choices.

Jean Vanier



Hands on:

Whenever I have a bad day, or anyone brings suffering onto me by their behaviour, I free myself from resentment and anger, and offer it to the Lord.