

## ***Our Lady of Sorrows***

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion - Jn 18:1—19:42  
Ave Maria Catholic Church, April 15, 2022 - Fr. David M Vidal

The Gospel tells us that “*standing by the cross of Jesus was his mother,*” (Jn 19:25). Mary at the foot of the Cross is the most striking message for the whole of humanity.

It is a message of deep sorrow, the sorrow of the most loving Mother sharing in the sorrows of God's beloved Son. At the same time, it is a message of love: the love of Jesus offering his life for us, the love of Jesus offering his Mother to us, and the love of Mary, accepting us as her new sons and daughters.

Many were the sorrows of Mary: the prophecy of Simeon, the flight into Egypt, the loss of Jesus for three days. But that is not all!

In one of his homilies, speaking on the sorrows of Mary, St. Charles Borromeo exclaims: “*You will endure much greater sorrows, O blessed Mother, and you will continue to live; but life will be for you a thousand times more bitter than death. You will see your innocent Son handed over into the hands of sinners . . . You will see him brutally crucified between thieves; you will see his holy side pierced by the cruel thrust of a lance; finally, you will see the blood that you gave him spilling. And nevertheless, you will not be able to die!*” (From the homily delivered in the Cathedral of Milan the Sunday after the Epiphany, 1584).

Here we are on Mount Calvary. The place where the grieving Mother stood weeping beside the cross where her Son was hanging.

In the 1984 Apostolic Letter, *Salvifici Doloris* (On the Christian Meaning of Human Suffering), Saint John Paul II teaches: “*It was on Calvary that Mary's suffering, beside the suffering of Jesus, reached an intensity which can hardly be imagined from a human point of view, but which was mysteriously and supernaturally fruitful for the Redemption of the world.*”

“*At the Cross, her station keeping, stood the mournful Mother weeping, close to Jesus to the last.*” Let us join our Blessed Mother. Let us stay with her close to Jesus to the last. And let us make this our prayer: “*Oh Sorrowful Mother, make me feel as you have felt; Make my soul glow and melt with the love of Christ my Lord.*” Amen