The Holy Spirit prepares us to meet Jesus

My mum died suddenly on Thursday last week – hence why I wasn't here.

I thank God that the Holy Spirit brought Jesus' presence to me during this time, so that I could be more of a blessing for others.

My dad called from their home in Oxfordshire on Thursday 3 pm last week to tell me that my mum had fallen over – I thought she had just cut her hand.

Thirty minutes later, my dad called again. This time he was crying. She had been resuscitated and was being taken by ambulance to hospital in Oxford.

I drove there immediately. When I arrived, the doctors told me she had moments to live.

I gave my mum the Last Rites with tears of faith.

I tried to console my dad with words of faith and prayers.

I held my phone to give my 4 brothers and sisters an opportunity to say their goodbyes by WhatsApp video, and reassuring them with words of faith.

I celebrated Mass for my mum in the family home the following day. I cried during the consecration, because I believe that I was sharing a sacred meal with mum.

I only managed to get through these things for others because the Holy Spirit brought Jesus' presence and love.

I'm going to preside at her funeral in 9/10 days, and I will definitely need the Holy Spirit to bring Jesus' presence then too.

I pray in this Mass for the **Holy Spirit to come, especially in that moment.**

The Holy Spirit prepares you and me to meet Jesus.

We need to be prepared us to meet Jesus

We all face things we're not ready for: illness, bereavement, mental health challenges, relationship or financial difficulties.

Even when we see them coming, we may not feel ready.

We need practical help.

We also need Jesus' presence.

The Holy Spirit prepares you and me to meet Jesus.

In today's Gospel, ten bridesmaids await a bridegroom. All have lamps to go out and meet him. But only five bring extra oil.

The lamps represent the practical ways we connect with God: e.g., religious rituals, outward moral behaviour, holding correct beliefs, using religious language, or belonging to a faith community.

These are vital. But alone, they do not work. They are like lamps without oil.

The oil represents the inward power within those practices.

The oil is the confidence to know that these religious practices work.

The oil alone helps bring the real presence of Jesus in the practices.

The oil can mean many things: e.g. faith, love, good works, and readiness.

But oil also means the Holy Spirit.

The oil of the Holy Spirit prepares you and me to meet Jesus.

What is your current or future challenge in the coming week, month, or year?

Prepare for that event practically.

Also**, pray to be filled with the Holy Spirit to bring Jesus' presence.**

You may still cry. You may feel anxious. You may feel afraid.

But you will be able to act with confidence as a beloved child of God, that your suffering has a purpose - that your witness can be a blessing for others - and that God has an amazing destiny for you and your loved ones.

If you have a specific future challenge, imagine yourself in it.

Imagine Jesus there with you in it.

We are going to pray for the Holy Spirit to come, so that when your time of suffering comes – and EVERYONE has to suffer - you will be ready to meet Jesus.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you that I can be ready to meet you by the power of the Holy Spirit.

I bring before you this moment in my life: _____.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Fill me with peace, courage, wisdom, strength, hope, and love.

Prepare me to meet Jesus in this moment of trial.

So that I can be a blessing for others.

In Jesus' name. Amen.