



Episode 11: When the Road is Long

"Praise be to the Lord, to God our Saviour, who daily bears our burdens."

{ Psalm 68:19 }

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

I found out this morning that a dear friend, a supporter and long time benefactor of CJM, Noel Sweeney, passed away this morning. It has come as a shock and a sadness to us all.

In this time when social distancing and staying at home is the reality for many of us, there have been cancelled parties, cancelled weddings and cancelled masses on the weekend. We cannot visit relatives in the hospital and we cannot attend funerals. The gift I have been able to give to Noel throughout the years is to sing at everything that's ever needed singing at, his children's weddings, his diamond jubilee wedding anniversary, his papal knighthood and I would want to be at his funeral, but won't be able to.

So I'm remembering him this evening and in solidarity with so many of us who have had a similar experience, not being able to be at big occasions that can't happen in the context that we find ourselves now. But just as we're united in prayer through the lense here, know we are united in spirit and the Lord walks close with us when we can't really make sense of it all.

My prayer is with each of you as we journey this road that we will know the closeness of Christ with us, even when we can't make sense of it. Even when there is great disappointment at things that we can't do, when there are things we can't attend, or can't be part of, we know it's a load that He bears with us and that we bear together in union with Him.

When the road is long and hard
When I do not know the way
When I'm cold and look for comfort
At the closing of the day
When I need a hand to guide me
A strength that will not fail
My friend, my friend is standing close to me

When I thirst for truth and justice
When I long for what is right
When I feel my health is failing
When I dread cold death's night
When I feel my life lacks meaning
When I know I can't go on
My Lord, my Lord is standing close to me

When I see my neighbour's need
But I look the other way
When I feel so lost so helpless
When I can't find words to pray
When I see hatred and division
A world crying out for peace
Jesus, Jesus is standing close to me

When

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What is a burden you would give up to the Lord?