

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

Heaven Now

Heaven is both now and later

Some time ago, I conducted a funeral for a seven-day old baby. The wrenching pain for the mother and father was so real that words of consolation seemed empty. And yet, I stuttered this thought: What is heaven? Heaven is the situation where the soul is immersed in unconditional love. That beautiful little girl experienced Heaven for those seven days of her earthly existence. There was no distance between heaven and earth because she was held in the unwavering gaze of her parents, loving her without limits.

The transition of her soul through death would have been seamless: Heaven and earth were clearly united in those days. And yet, we human beings too easily forget those precious revelations: revelations which do not always depend on tragedy. We too easily forget those intimations and end up putting a huge distance between Heaven and Earth.

'Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.' How can this come about? It happens when human beings share God's way of seeing and doing things.

THERE NEED BE NO GULF BETWEEN HEAVEN and EARTH.

Heaven and earth can share the same space. Heaven and earth coincide when all get daily bread. When forgiveness of ourselves and others removes harshness of heart and makes us gentle and kind.

So Heaven and Earth need not be as distant as supposed. They can coincide. Pray the 'Our Father' often. It is a universal prayer. It was the prayer embodied in the lives of a loving mother and father over those seven days. (adapted from homily of Fr Michael Tate)

Heaven and Earth coincide when we can Hold Space for Someone

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=wEfrj4tggtU>

*Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven.*

*The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
Sustain our hope and come on earth.*

*With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts that we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In the times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.*

*For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
Now and forever. Amen*

*Life is
changed not
ended*



*"Heaven is here and now
and then and there and
at hand and amongst us
and upon us and available
and real"*

"Heaven is here"

*The question to ask rather
than "How do we get into
heaven?" is "How do we
bring heaven here?"*

*"To really love someone is
to say to that person, you
at least will not die!"*

Gabriel Marcel

*Death does not
end our
story...
Death does not
end our
relationships*