

Father Bob's Homily – Good Friday

Today we remember how Jesus humbly and heroically died on the Cross for our salvation.

In the Gospel we hear those iconic words of Jesus as He completes His earthly mission:

“It is finished.”

In Greek, that phrase carries profound meaning. The word is *tetelestai*.

Tetelestai was used in several contexts:

- In business, it meant: the debt has been paid.
- In a judicial sense: the sentence has been served.
- In a military sense: the battle is over—the victory has been won.

What a beautiful way for Jesus to speak to humanity from the Cross.

Through His death, the debt of our sins has been paid.

Our sentence has been served.

Our slavery to sin and death is ended.

It is finished.

Because Jesus died on the Cross and rose again, the victory has been won.

The Kingdom of God has conquered the kingdom of Satan.

So we might ask: What return can I make to the Lord for all His goodness to me?

The answer is clear.

We follow the command of Jesus:

to take up our cross.

Now is the time for heroic Catholicism.

Yes—it is hard to be Catholic. It is hard to be courageous.

But as the world pushes against us, we must stand firm in our faith.

As we venerate the Cross, may our hearts overflow with gratitude for the love God has shown us in Jesus Christ—
who paid the debt for our sins
and won for us the gift of salvation through His death on the Cross.

And may we pray for the grace and courage
to carry our own crosses
and to live our faith with humility and heroism.