



MEDITATIONS FOR LENT by Father Robbie Low

## **SECOND WEEK OF LENT – THURSDAY Luke 16: 19-31**

I am always amazed when I meet Christian Universalists – those who believe that everyone will be saved and that Hell is empty. This peculiar travesty of the Gospel has to conveniently overlook the fact that Jesus Himself talks more about Hell than the rest of the Bible put together and that universalism removes the need for evangelism – one of His great parting charges to the Apostolic leadership of the Church. If everybody is saved then we need change nothing and might as well carry on sinning until the lights go out.

More painfully and utterly inexplicably it renders Jesus' suffering and death on the Cross as simply an exercise in senseless masochism.

Universalism is a lie of the enemy, a recruiting ground for his fell regions and hopeless denizens.

Today's Gospel, Dives & Lazarus, is a shocker. The rich man steps over the beggar every day and doesn't lift a finger to help him. He is careless, self-indulgent, uncompassionate and unjust. These are all, in time and in eternity, unjust and, utterly at odds with the teaching of Holy Scripture. And so in eternity the roles are reversed and the chasm dividing them unbridgeable.

The full horror of Hell comes home to us when Dives pleads for a drop of water to cool his mouth – a mouth that once had the finest vintages at its disposal - and is refused. Lazarus cannot be commissioned to act as ago-between or useful servant. Nor can anyone, by the banned gift of necromancy, go and warn his equally careless and self-indulgent brothers. They have Moses and the Prophets....they know the score. Presumably they are as careless of the Law of God as their self-indulgent brother was and heading, via their social injustice, to the same unenviable doom.

***Spiritual exercise:*** Check your charitable giving is up to date and generous. Reflect on what you truly believe about Heaven and Hell.

