

10th April 2020

"Good" Friday?

**"Good things of day begin to droop and drowse,
Whiles night's black agents to their preys do rouse."**

Shakespeare, Macbeth

The Long Good Friday is a gangster movie from 1979 starring Bob Hoskins and Helen Mirren. It weaves together issues of the late 1970s, such as political and police corruption, IRA fund-raising, Britain's role in Europe and wider economic concerns. Hoskins plays Harold Shand, a London gangster, who is aspiring to become a legitimate businessman but trying to form a partnership with the American Mafia with a plan to redevelop London Docklands. I'm not sure where the title *The Long Good Friday* comes from. But it came to mind as I began to think of how long and horrible this Good Friday has been, and will be for us, in 2020.

Good Friday, when we remember the pain and suffering of Jesus; Good Friday, when we have to struggle with the crucifixion; Good Friday, when death stares us in the face; Good Friday, which we have to come through so that the revelation of Easter morning can be appreciated ...

But a Good Friday that's *this* long and horrible, where darkness and pain is numbered in months and not hours? To be honest, I can't find anything to share today that can make sense of this. But however long this Good Friday is, it's something we have to deal with. It might feel as awful, offensive, painful and distressing as that first Good Friday was. It may be long, and it *will* pass, but for today, as with every Good Friday, it just can't be avoided, can it? "Good" Friday? Who knows? Who knows?

A prayer for today

Present God, when the pain of today lasts too long, and the horror doesn't go away quickly, stand with me; watch with me; cry with me; wait with me; be patient with me; wonder with me ... till the long Good Friday is past, and I might come to know what "Good" means once more. Amen.

An original reflection by © Tom Gordon

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