

15th April 2022

Good Friday

Death

**"A nephew once asked me when he was quite young,
Who dies? I said, "Everyone dies"
No use denying it, one day you're done, oh, everyone dies.
Princes and paupers there's no one immune
And no one who'll escape their demise.
So you'd better make most of each day that you're given.
Oh, everyone dies."**

*James Keelaghan, Who Dies? from the album, 'Road', Hightone Records.
(James Keelaghan © 1999. Quoted with permission)*

Today my thoughts turn to death. On Good Friday, I can't avoid it. Whatever our belief system or life-stance, the cataclysmic events of Good Friday are about death. But, perhaps surprisingly, this will not be a Christian piece. Nor will I seek to soften the awfulness of death by pointing to a belief in heaven or the glories of Easter. For today I concentrate on this truth: Life is finite. Death is inevitable. None of us will live forever.

"Who dies? Everyone dies." This truism comes from *Who Dies?* by James Keelaghan, a Canadian singer-songwriter. I can do no better today than to quote the remainder of Keelaghan's song, as he offers insights into the issues of death and how we face our mortality.

Now people have pondered this time and again: Who dies? Everyone dies.

We suspect that we're more than mere mortal remains. Oh, everyone dies.

Wise men and prophets they've all had their say on the nature of our afterlives.

But in case there's no beer there, we'll have one more round. Oh, everyone dies.

Now, your time may be short or your time may be long: Who dies? Everyone dies.

But it's going to happen as sure as you're born. Oh, everyone dies.

Friends and relations and all we hold dear will one day pass to the other side.

So we'd better embrace them as long as they're here.

On Good Friday, let's face reality, join prophets and wise folk, friends and relations and ponder death. Short or long lives, princes or paupers, none of us will escape our demise. It's going to happen for sure. So let *us* make the best use of each day *we're* given. Let's embrace those we love as if was the last – or first – time. Let's have "one more round" and, in the face of death, celebrate the preciousness of life.

A prayer for today

Loving God, in the face of death, let me once more appreciate the joy of living. Amen