

What gets us out of bed in the morning? Often it's simply a matter of will, of habit, of duty – but also knowing that once up the mood changes, something shifts, the routine prepares us for the inevitability of change, of an unknown day full of unexpected trials but also unexpected gifts – some of the fears that kept us in bed are justified but in the unfolding of the day a way is found to surmount them, to change them into gifts which change us. We're talking perhaps here of that forever dynamic of death and resurrection which is the pattern of every life, of all life, of life itself: that pattern which Jesus teaches and that, once embraced, carries us through every death including all the little deaths we die each day and that final death which signals our passing into eternal life, to the life of resurrection which is our distinctive hope as Christians. Paul can then just as well speak of his past escape from prison, and many other past escapes in the same language as the death he knows from which there is no escape and which is coming to him soon. And what does he do in the face of this death but prepare Timothy for his role as his successor, symbolised perhaps in the request for the cloak and the parchments Paul has left behind in Troas (in the missing bit from today's letter to Timothy). And one is reminded of the death each Pope faces as he suddenly finds himself elected and the peace that comes with its acceptance – that moment of helplessness which only God can fill. Peter too has had to face this dynamic- this getting out of bed to find life in the midst of death or just as well this daily dying of self in order to find life in God. The first stirrings of this dynamic are perhaps to be found in his recognition of Jesus as not only the Christ, the Saviour who is to come, but as also the Son of the "living God" - one, that is, who finds life in God or life from God whatever comes – our Saviour in the midst of death. Peter doesn't yet have this life in its fulness, he still has to go through failure, to be reduced to helplessness before he can fully face his fears and fully embrace Christ as his Saviour – this one who dies in order to live and enables us to do the same – even when there's no more getting out of bed to face the day.

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