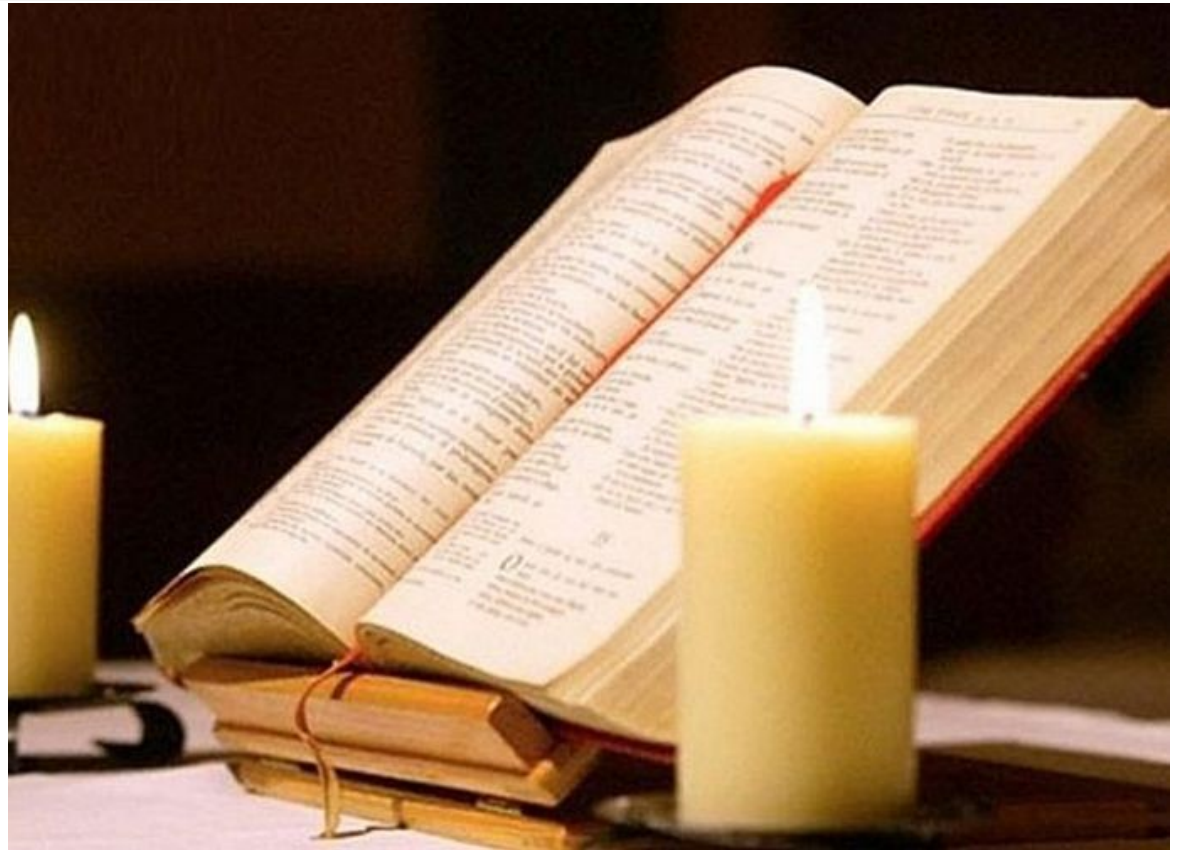


GOSPEL PEARLS

Agonising grief

GOSPEL PEARLS

05_07_2021



While Jesus was saying these things to them, behold, a ruler came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." And Jesus rose and followed him, with his disciples. And behold, a woman who had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, for she said to herself, "If I only touch his garment, I will be made well." Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well. And when Jesus came to the ruler's house and saw the flute

players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, "Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose. And the report of this went through all that district. (Matthew 9: 18-26)

Death comes to all of us. Those who do not recognise God fool themselves into thinking that they will survive in the memory of their contemporaries and descendants. But when death strikes a child, as in this Gospel passage, not even the faintest hope is felt by her parents. Jesus takes pity on this inconsolable despair by awakening their daughter from earthly death with her resurrection and by giving a sure sign of His power as the Son of God to her father and the sceptics who had previously mocked him. Do you believe beyond all doubt in eternal life?