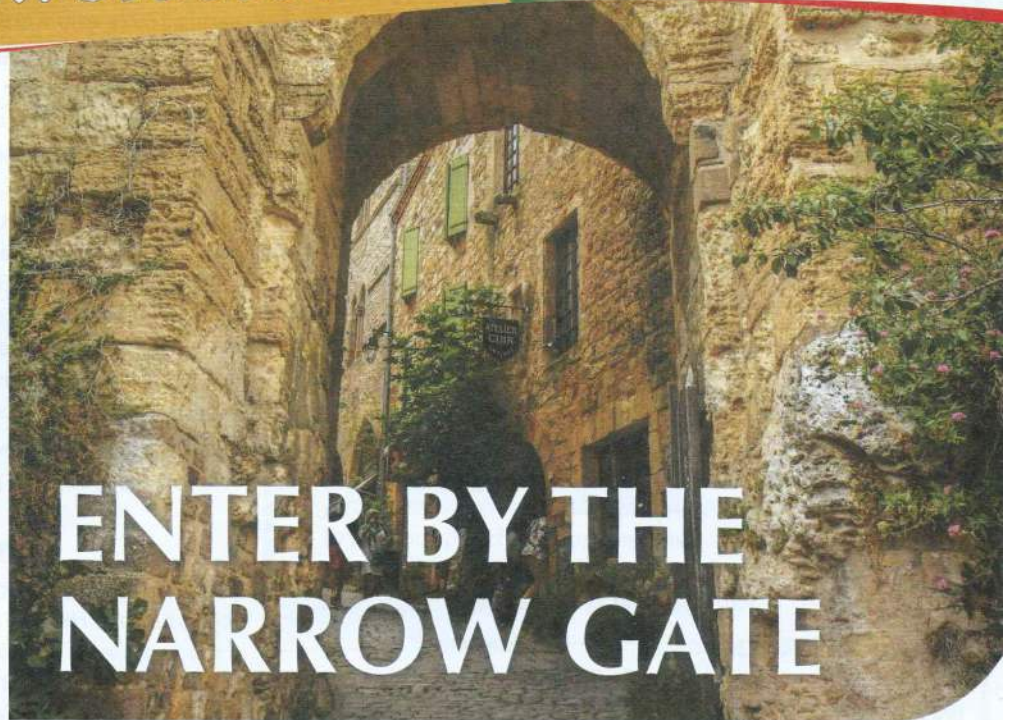


Pope Benedict XVI said that one of the greatest challenges faced by contemporary Christians was 'the dictatorship of relativism', for example the opinion that there was nothing unique about Jesus, he was merely one outstanding religious leader among many others such as Buddha, Lau Tzu, Zoroaster and Mohammed. Any claim that Christ is divine, the unique and the sole means of salvation is considered by many liberal Catholics to be arrogant, intolerant and unjustified. They consider all religions as equally valid paths to transcendence. Speaking about this mistaken and corrosive attitude to Jesus, Pope Benedict said, 'This renunciation of truth seems realistic and useful for peace among religions in the world. It is nevertheless lethal to faith.'

Speaking about his unique role as the Good Shepherd, Jesus said, 'I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture' (Jn 10:9). In today's first reading, St Peter said in no uncertain terms that, 'There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved.' St Paul endorsed that point



of view when he wrote, 'there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus' (1 Tim 2:5).

Catholics believe that those who, through no fault of their own, do not have faith in Jesus, can be saved if they 'sincerely seek God and moved by grace strive by their deeds to do His will as it is known to them through the dictates of conscience ... Whatever good or truth is found amongst them is looked upon by the Church as a preparation for the Gospel' (Constitution on the Church, par. 16).

But, anyone whose faith is rooted in the truth as revealed in the scriptures and taught by the Church, will see how important it is in our 'post truth' society adrift on a sea of relativism, to tell people about Jesus, who is the incarnation of the truth, the speaker of truth, who said, 'I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd.' The sheep 'not of this sheep pen' probably refers to the Gentiles whom Jesus sent his disciples to and whom he wished to include in his salvation. ■

— Pat Collins

After the Consecration

The mystery of faith.

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

THE COMMUNION RITE

At the Saviour's command ...

Our Father, who art in heaven, ...

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, ...

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

Lord Jesus Christ, ...

Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And with your spirit.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins, ...

Behold the Lamb of God, ...

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon

The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

Look upon your flock, kind Shepherd, and be pleased to settle in eternal pastures the sheep you have redeemed by the Precious Blood of your Son.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**



Reflection

Think of the blessing that a good friendship has been to you in life.



Lesson

God is love, and when we relate to one another in love we act as befits God's children.



Prayer

"You are my God, I thank you; your love has no end" (Ps 118).