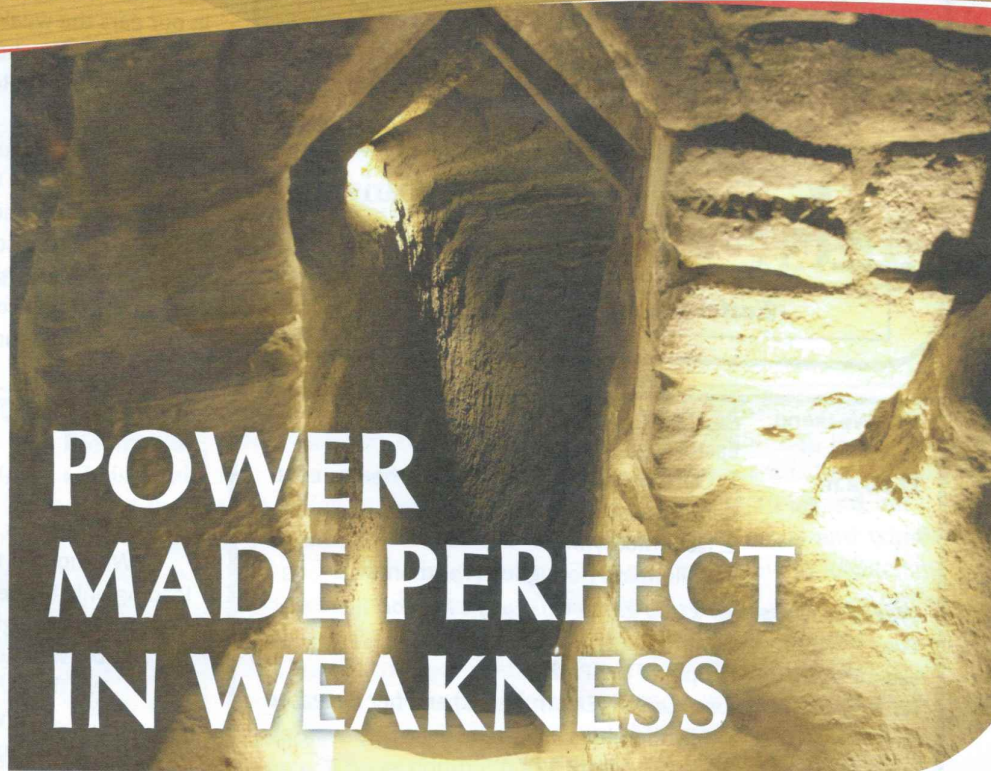




**I** imagine that you approach the tomb of Jesus and ease yourself past the stone at the entrance. When you get inside the tomb, notice that it is very dark. But after a while your eyes get accustomed to the gloom and you can see the embalmed body of Jesus lying on a shelf of rock. You go over and lie down beside him because there is enough room for you to do so. You turn on your side and look at the blood-stained outline of Christ's body beneath the burial cloths. You ask yourself, 'Who is this lying beside me?' You are amazed as you find yourself replying, 'This is Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and here he lies beside me, devoid of breath, pulse, or life. Then you say to the inanimate corpse of Jesus, 'I, like you, experience significant weakness in different areas of my life.' Then you go on to tell him about them.

Sometime afterwards, imagine that you see a blazing light illuminate the tomb. You know that it is the light of the Holy Spirit, who is the Lord and giver of life. It invades the lifeless body of Jesus and raises it to glorious new life. As he ascends from the tomb, you cry to him, 'Lord Jesus, don't forget about me, in my weakness; I need to experience the



## POWER MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS

same power of the Holy Spirit that raised you from the dead.' Then recall the following glorious words of St Paul in Eph 1:18-20, 'How very great is his power at work in us who believe. This power working in us is the same as the mighty strength which God the Father used when he raised Christ from death and seated him at his right side in the heavenly world.'

Isn't it wonderful? God, by his Spirit, is at work within our powerlessness to give us the ability to live in accord with the word and will of God, which he has spoken to our hearts. This is a prayer you

can recite whenever you encounter crucifixion points of powerlessness.

"Lord Jesus, the good I wish to do, I cannot do, but you are living out the mysteries of your life in me. Enable me, by the same Spirit that animated your life of loving service and raised you from the powerlessness of death to eternal new life, to continue and fulfill your life and mission in and through me. Amen." ■

— Pat Collins

**Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name  
of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**After the Consecration**  
The mystery of faith.

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

### THE COMMUNION RITE

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** (1 Cor 5:7-8)  
**Christ our Passover has been sacrificed,  
alleluia; therefore let us keep the feast with  
the unleavened bread of purity and truth,  
alleluia, alleluia.**

**Prayer after Communion**  
Look upon your Church, O God, with unending  
love and favour, so that, renewed by the paschal  
mysteries, she may come to the glory of the  
resurrection.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



### Reflection

What blinds you to the full truth  
of the resurrection of Jesus?



### Lesson

Feel the overwhelming joy and  
faith of Mary Magdalene when  
Jesus meets her in his risen glory.



### Prayer

I praise and glorify your holy  
resurrection, for through the Cross  
joy has come into the world.