



# Father Gabriel Homily

**Funeral homily for Clemens Reutter**

**Friday 19 August Cistercian Monastery of Rein Graz Austria**

I remember Clemi full of life. And this makes it so hard to be here. I remember him full of life, and with just the right engaging glint of mischief in the eye. Not that school masters are necessarily best at appreciating that at the time. And but a few short weeks ago, all was going so well and life was full of hope and expectation. It is indeed hard to be here. St Thomas is as always the awkward apostle – and it is so in today’s gospel – ‘How can we know the way?’ he asks rather querulously. We might paraphrase – ‘how may we know your way, O Lord?’ How indeed? And answer comes there none – or at least no direct, immediate, easy answer, or easy soothing of the pain in the heart. But I do know this. I do know this, Clemi, that life has been better than if you had not been. I know that though short, and cut short, your life has brought many gifts. And I know that you live in the hearts and love of your family and your many friends, in the places you have been and in your mountains. The love goes on – and there are more eloquent witnesses to that here today than my words. When you climb a mountain, there is a horizon that beckons, a pointer to a goal, a mountain top, that can seem impossibly far away and out of reach. You have found a short cut Clemi – not yet given to us who remain. We pray for you Clemi, and my goodness we ask you to pray for us, in that communion we pray, is yours. Jesus says ‘I am the way, the truth and the life.’ ‘No one comes to the Father except through me’ ‘I am come that you may have life and have it to the full.’ Elsewhere in St John’s gospel, Jesus says ‘in that day you will not ask me any more questions’. We pray that together with Clemi and all our departed loved ones, we may (finally to quote from St Benedict) ‘run along the path of God’s commandments, our hearts overflowing with the inexpressible delight of love’. May Clemi come to the place of light and peace, and when we in our time join him, may we all be united in the one bond of love that is for ever.