



# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

*"Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ's love to our entire community through traditional Anglo-Catholic worship, fellowship, outreach, and Christian formation."*

**Our Vision:** *"We strive to be a haven of healing, reconciliation, joy and peace in service to our wider community and beyond, so that our example in prayer and practice may reflect Christ's love for us all."*

## **THIS SUNDAY — May 15 & Beyond**

### **"The Unmistakable Mark of Discipleship"**



Discipleship has become one of the main goals in people's faith journey in all churches. It is said that without becoming Christ's real disciples we cannot grow in our faith, so after Initiation (Baptism), the next stage should be a solid formation in the basics of Christianity, which usually involves Bible knowledge, some basic Theology, attention to personal and communal devotional life and prayer, and the practice of Christian charity or love.

All this is undoubtedly relevant and it is a good idea to pay due attention to the different components that make up what is usually known as *discipleship*. A more mature faith normally includes this kind of formative spectrum, which can be tackled in a more or less structured manner, depending on what each church offers its parishioners. Jesus had a particularly effective way of teaching His disciples. He first invited them to come and see where He dwelt, and then had them watch, by coming along with Him everywhere He went, how He carried out God's reconciling mission through His radical Way of Love.

In due time, He began to give them participation in His loving deeds, while He was also present, and finally He sent them out, when He felt they were ready, in pairs, to carry out His reconciling work of caring love.

Jesus did not use a structured course on discipleship to teach His followers about the mission they were called to carry out—or perhaps He did, but the structure was all in His mind. However, no one could ever match the effectiveness of His training method.

The best teacher or leader is not the one who becomes indispensable, the one the disciples always stay stuck with and cannot function without, but the one who prepares his disciples properly to take on the functions of leaders and teachers themselves.

Jesus was well aware of His return to the Father, and He let the disciples know about it. Most of the time they simply ignored His warning, perhaps hoping that by taking the idea out of their minds it would never happen, but it did.

Right before He went back to the Father, He reminded His followers what the unmistakable mark of their discipleship would be: to love one another as He had loved them. He called this the new commandment, and sometimes we may wonder if that was a good name for it.

Loving others as they loved themselves was certainly not a new commandment. Jesus used this commandment in His summary of the Law, taken from two different texts from the Old Testament, one from Numbers and the other from Deuteronomy. So obviously this was not new for the disciples.

But Jesus was asking them to love one another as He had loved them, and there is quite a significant difference here.

The commandment to love one's neighbor as oneself is usually understood in the sense of doing to others as one would have others do to one. It is a great commandment, and if it were put into practice by most people, the world would indeed be a much better place.

But loving others in the way that Jesus has loved us, which is equivalent to saying “in the way God loves us”, that is, unconditionally, limitlessly, to the point of self-oblivion

and self-sacrifice, is a much higher—and obviously harder—goal to achieve.

This is what Jesus was asking His followers to show forth in their lives. This kind of radical and unconditional love for all is what makes us remember our true identity in our loving God, and constitutes the authentic mark that will identify us as true disciples of Jesus Christ, His beloved Son.

Father Carlos E. Expósito

Readings for The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 13:44-52    Revelation 19:1, 4-9    Psalm 145:1-9    John 13:31-35

## CALENDAR

Note: We are worshipping in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom. The service time is 10am. Tuesday Noon Mass and Friday Morning Prayer are held in All Saints' St. Mary Chapel.

**SUNDAY**    The Fifth Sunday of Easter

**10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church**

Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

Recording of Mass available before noon at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

**Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children**

Ages 5-12 in the Parish Hall from 10:00am-10:45am

**Christian Formation** every second and fourth Sunday of the month at

11:30am Studying *Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul* by John Philip Newel – Rector's Study

A Spanish Mass will be held on the first, second, fourth (and fifth) Sundays each month at 1pm. Everyone is welcome.

**TUESDAY**    Noon Mass in St. Mary Chapel

**THURSDAY** Spanish Class 1:00pm to 3:00pm in the Flower Room. Taught by Fr. Carlos

**FRIDAY**    10:00am Morning Prayer in St. Mary Chapel

**SUNDAY**    The Sixth Sunday of Easter

**10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church**

Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)  
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**OUR CORE VALUES:**

- Welcoming strangers like old friends
- Embracing the Anglo-Catholic tradition
- Being dependable members of a caring community
- Respecting each other's differences
- Being faithful stewards of God's gift
- Remembering that God loves everyone unconditionally

An Anglo-Catholic Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

[www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)