



ALL SAINTS'

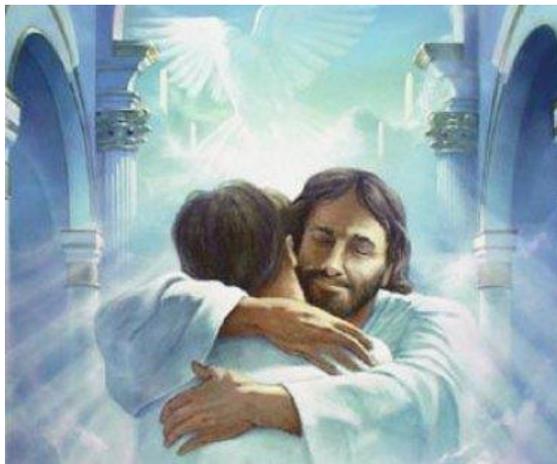
CHURCH

"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 — April 24 & Beyond

"God's Reconciling Mission."



The Collect for this Sunday tells us that in the Paschal mystery God established the new covenant of reconciliation and prompts us who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body to show forth in our lives what we profess by faith.

To reconcile means to restore to friendship or harmony, and in the Christian context, it means to restore our relationship with God, with one another and with the whole creation to the harmonious level that God has always meant it to be at.

In this sense, the reconciliation mission is not ours, but clearly God's in the first place. It is God who has always wished for our relationship with Him to be at the greatest level of harmony, so that we can enjoy the fullness of communion with the divine that this harmony implies.

A love-based relationship with the Creator will eventually bring us back to our real being, which has always been our being in God's life-giving love for all.

As a natural result of this harmonious relationship with our Creator, and not the other way around as some may fruitlessly try to enforce, we begin to live in harmony with one another and with all that has been created. That is why, when Jesus summarized the commandments into two, He followed the natural order: Love God with all your being, and your neighbor as yourself.

Jesus' radical Way of Love is the perfect human expression of this divine reconciling mission that He has now entrusted His followers. But to reconcile, for true Christ's followers, does not mean to be complacent with the dark forces of injustice and evil, or try to negotiate with them so as to reach a peaceful arrangement.

In the reading from the Book of Acts this Sunday we can clearly read how Peter and the rest of the Apostles clearly refused to follow the religious leaders' orders not to proclaim Jesus' Good News of salvation to all. They simply said, "We must obey God rather than any human authority."

They knew this would bring about persecution, prison, and even death to them, but they were adamant in their determination to spread God's reconciling mission to the world.

In the reading from the Book of Revelation we find John in the island of Patmos, and he was certainly not vacationing there. He had been exiled "because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus", as he says to his readers. He would not think of compromising his message to please any human authorities.

God's reconciling mission, the one that Jesus carried out while on this earth, and the one He has entrusted us, is a loving and life-giving mission that only when we are filled by God's Holy Spirit can be carried out.

This is a mission that calls for courage, discernment, and determination, and also trust and complete faith that God's Spirit is guiding us all the time. It entails forgiveness when there is repentance, and even when there is no repentance on the part of the wrongdoers, because forgiveness will free us from the bondage of the desire for revenge, which only corrodes and poisons our lives. We must forgive in the sense of letting go of those feelings that hurt us, but that does not necessarily mean that we condone or approve the acts of injustice that others perpetrate against us or others.

It is interesting to notice how the resurrected Christ appears to His disciples with the marks of the crucifixion on Him. Is it only because He wanted to make sure they recognized Him, or could it be also because even if He forgave His tormentors and killers, the fact remains that what they did was horribly wrong?

Jesus' phrase to His followers about forgiving and retaining sins has long been debated. He said it right after blowing the Holy Spirit on them and sending them to carry out the reconciling mission that He had received from the Father.

For centuries the church has interpreted it as a mark of authority, invested upon ordained ministers only, to absolve sinners.

Others have seen it as a reminder to all Christians that forgiveness is essential if the message of reconciliation is to be effectually carried out.

But what if it is also a reminder to us all that the Holy Spirit will guide us in discerning that there may be grave injustices that can simply not be condoned or approved, because doing so makes us accomplices of their perpetrators, and instead of helping to establish God's reconciliation in the world, this complacent attitude may hinder it even further.

Just a thought.

May the Holy Spirit always guide us in the right spirit of reconciliation, in truth, mercy, and justice.

Father Carlos E. Expósito

Readings for The Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:12a, 17-22, 25-29 Revelation Psalm 111 John 20:19-31

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 Second Sunday of Easter

10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church

Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org

Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children

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

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 Third Sunday of Easter

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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