



# 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 21, 2023**

**“Something Strange Happening”**



good things will happen to this person. But is this really so?

Bad things have always happened to everyone, including good people, but when someone decides to become a faithful follower of Him who is Love incarnate, and this person lives according to the rule of love, it is somehow “logical” to expect that mostly

The Old Testament writers in general insisted on the law of retribution. God would give those who followed His commandments a good and prosperous life, with offspring and many years to live. Not receiving these was seen as a sign of someone who had not followed the commandments, of someone who had sinned.

It was only during the Hellenistic period (particularly in the Wisdom books written during this time) that this premise was not so much taken for granted, and some of these books (Job, for instance) contain reflections on the paradox of how people who live according to God's Law also suffer. But there is a sense of final retribution if these suffering persons remain faithful to God.

The first followers of Christ lived under the rule of the Roman Empire. This empire was content with letting each nation follow its religion, as long as they would not interfere with the emperor's authority and standing, which included worshipping him as a deity.

The Jews were a particularly hard bone for the Romans to swallow. They were really adamant in their belief in the only God, which could not be represented by any images. So any worship of a human Emperor was out of the question. Even so, the Jewish authorities tried to compromise by respecting the Emperor's authority and complying with their taxes.

Although there was always a tension between the Jewish authorities and the Romans, the former tried to make sure that no uprising took place, in the hope that they could sustain their ruling positions among the population.

When the Jesus movement started to gain force among the people, the Jewish authorities panicked. Jesus' followers clearly understood Him to be the Messiah, the King that would bring about God's Kingdom and would rule the nations.

Apart from the fact that the Jewish authorities did not believe Jesus to be the Messiah, they were also afraid that the Roman authorities would turn against them if the people followed someone whom they proclaimed as king. So they decided to turn Him over to the Roman authorities and have Him crucified.

They hoped this would put an end to the Jesus' movement, but obviously it did not. After Jesus was raised from the dead, the movement gained tremendous strength, and the number of converts multiplied each day. The movement then began to expand out of Judea, to the neighboring regions, and beyond, into the pagan world.

Now the Jewish authorities had a greater fear. They saw how many of the Jews were being converted to the new movement. And the Roman authorities also suddenly faced this new movement, born within the Jewish religion, but with a totally radical uncompromising sense of faithfulness to Jesus Christ, and to one another within the community of faith.

They could not accuse this new movement of any mischief or misconduct, or of trying to promote revolts and overturn governments. But obviously these followers of Jesus' radical Way of Love would not compromise with any unjust behavior or yield to false worship, and this became a problem for the Empire.

So the first Christians easily became the victims of slander and false accusations of all sorts. They were persecuted by both the Jewish authorities and the Romans. Some of them were imprisoned and others were martyred.

Following the logic of retribution, strange things were happening to those who never ceased to do good to others.

As it was then, it continues to be even to this day. We may not suffer the kind of persecution that the first Christians were subjected to, but being a true follower of Christ will bring us the scorn and opposition of those who would rather follow the law of self-centeredness, and ruthless ambition of wealth and power.

The Apostle Peter, in his First Letter, deals with this issue in chapter 4. He begins verse 12 by stating, “Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.” Then he continues by affirming, “But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ’s sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when His glory is revealed.”

Suffering has no merits in itself. No one should seek suffering per se. But when one suffers for faithfully following Him who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, it is more than worthwhile going through the ordeal!

Fr. Carlos Espósito

Readings for The Seventh Sunday after Easter

Acts 1:8-14    1 Peter 4:12-19    Psalm 47    John 17:1-11

## CALENDAR

Note: We continue worshipping in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom. The service time is 10am. Tuesday Noon Mass and Friday Morning Prayer at 10:00am are held in All Saints’ St. Mary Chapel.

**SUNDAY    May 21, 2023    Seventh 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** Meets next on May 28 at Noon in the Rector's Office. Book Study: The Three Conversions of the Christian Life

**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** **May 28, 2023 The Day of Pentecost**

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

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**San Diego Coterie Concert** – “The Sound of Music” sing-along

2:30pm All Saints' Parish Hall

### **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)