



# 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 30, 2023**

**“The Endurance That Pleases God”**



Christianity is undoubtedly a faith that commends endurance. Jesus Christ's life is the epitome of endurance, and his first followers had to endure slander, persecutions, prison, and even martyrdom.

Through the centuries, Christ's authentic followers have had to endure a lot, particularly those who have tried to keep the faith pure, and those who have gone on mission to foreign and oftentimes hostile lands. Even nowadays there are Christians who literally give their life for being faithful witnesses of Christ's Way of Love.

There seems to be a contradiction between the claim made by Jesus that He has come “that we may have life, and have it abundantly”, and being willing to put up with harshness and even pain in our lives to be true witnesses of the faith we profess.

It might look as if our Creator were intent in making us suffer. But that is certainly not the case.

Popular wisdom has this saying, “No pain, no gain.” This reminds us that nothing worthwhile comes to us easy in life. This is undoubtedly true wisdom. If we fall into the habit of avoiding all discomfort in our lives, of never getting out of “our comfort zone”, we will become lazy and conformist people, and this is probably the greatest fault of our modern society.

But when it comes to our faith, we are not only talking about making efforts and facing hardships that will make our character stronger. We are literally referring to the possibility of suffering losses and experiencing pain for the sake of our Christian integrity.

What is this abundant life that Christ has promised to give us?

Life can mean different things according to the way we perceive it. Biological life has been defined by science, and we are all familiar with what it means and entails. It is wonderful, and its pinnacle on this planet is human life, but even so it is finite and its decline and end are inevitable.

When the New Testament writers—John the Evangelist in particular—use the terms *life* and *death*, they usually mean something other than what we normally understand. True and abundant life is seen as the true expression of God’s love—a life lived in communion with the Creator, with one another, and with the whole of creation. This life transcends biological life. It is not confined by the time-space continuum of our ordinary lives on earth.

This true life is not self-centered, because God’s love is the opposite of self-centeredness. It is all-embracing, unconditional love. This implies that sacrificing oneself for the benefit of others is a common trait of the true life. Just as Christ gave Himself for us, we must be willing to give ourselves to others in love.

Following Jesus’ radical Way of Love entails endurance. The world we live in is not in perfect communion with the law of love. Living our lives in consonance with this law will normally find opposition from many, including those who are in power in our society, and this will make us suffer.

This means we should stand up for justice and promote change in our society. The abundant and true-life Jesus promised us must be our goal, and we must strive to make the changes that bring God’s Kingdom closer to us.

Enduring the consequences of promoting the coming of God’s Reign of Love must not be confused with using violence to follow the political agenda we see fit. There are instances when it may become necessary to overthrow an unjust regime, but the use of violence and death is not normally consonant with Jesus’ Way of Love.

If we suffer for doing wrong to others, as Peter says in his First Letter, chapter 2, “what credit is that?” But then he adds, “But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God’s approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in His steps.”

Let us follow His steps consistently.

Fr. Carlos Espósito

## Readings for The Fourth Sunday after Easter

Acts 6:1-9, 7a, 51-60 1 Peter 2:19-25 Psalm 23 John 10:1-10

## 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 April 30, 2023 Fourth 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 this Sunday April 30 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 7, 2023 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** Meets next on May 14 at Noon in the Rector's

Office. Book Study: The Three Conversions of the Christian Life

## **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)**