

# A Message from Godfrey

In these last days of Lent, as we start looking ahead to Holy Week and to walking with Christ on his way to the cross, the Gospel readings talk about what is going to happen and what he is going to accomplish in Jerusalem.

In the Gospel reading for this Sunday, we see the disciples at a point where they realise that this is a solemn time but they are unsure about what is going to happen and are anxious and afraid.

But these are days of anxiety and fear for many in our world today. We are still at the mercy of Covid 19 and lockdown although the end is, hopefully, in sight

In this time of flux and change there are plenty of would-be prophets of doom telling us how afraid we ought to be and that if we do not conform and fall into line something even worse may befall us.

But what if Jesus is right this morning? If he is right then we have no need to fear. We need to follow. When Jesus is lifted up he draws all people to him. The Greeks who are telling Philip and Andrew that they want to see Jesus are put on hold and the Pharisees who fear Jesus is stirring up the people are even more threatened.

Today is the Fifth Sunday of Lent also known as Passion Sunday when we would be preparing to sort out our preparations for Holy Week and Easter. This has got to be the strangest Lent I have ever experienced! I cannot begin to imagine what life would be like without faith and the comfort and support that we gain from it. Some words from the Collect for today which is set out below;

*Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world.*

That statement is the basis of our faith and it is very important as we progress through this difficult time in all our lives that we do not lose sight of the fundamentals of our faith. May this bring us comfort and hope this Passiontide.

*Most merciful God,  
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ  
delivered and saved the world:  
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross  
we may triumph in the power of his victory;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.*

There is a richness in the prayers at the Passion Sunday Eucharist which are very relevant for today. This is the Post Communion prayer which speaks of hope and joyfulness.

*Lord Jesus Christ,  
You have taught us  
That what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters  
We do also for you:  
Give us the will to be the servant of others  
As you were the servant of all,  
And gave up your life and died for us,  
But are alive and reign, now and forever.  
Amen.*

Thoughts and prayers

Godfrey