

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What a full and varied week it has been as we journey through Easter. We hear of the sadness of India, the joy of post office workers reprieved, the outrage of the football fans and the seemingly improving health situation in the UK. All these things may seem like simple news but to those in the middle of these problems and traumas it can be no fun at all and sometimes even sheer desperation. The Easter message has been given to us to give to the world at large. In order to do this Jesus and the disciples had to suffer for their faith and we are called sometimes to do the same.

In today's modern age I don't think it is the same sort of suffering that Jesus and the disciples had to go through, although occasionally it can be in parts of the world, rather it is to do with the suffering of repentance. With the world of today, so varied and multi-faceted, it is so easy to justify almost anything and then the ability to recognise and repent of our sins can become so much more difficult. So much so that deep spiritual and moral change may not even enter the mind as a need or question. We pray therefore Lord for the spirit of the Resurrection and the new life of Christ. May our hearts be truly open!

This weekend is Vocation Sunday when we are asked to pray for all vocations, but in particular the vocation of leadership whether through new priests and religious or committed lay persons. We are all in this together for the sake of the good of the world through the message of Christ and his salvation. As we pray for vocations let us also pray for our own deeper inner conversion and commitment.

Let us pray for vocation and justice throughout the world. Every individual is made in the image and likeness of God. We are all potentially brothers and sisters of Christ. May the world live always with this in mind.

God bless you all and stay safe!

Father Anton s.c.j.

**Our Lady & Saint John the Baptist, Ashley
and
Our Lady & Saint Werburgh, Clayton**

The parishes are part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No 234216

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[Parishes Office Hours: Wed/ Thur/Fri/Sat 10.00 am – 1 pm]

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**Sunday 25th April 2021
Fourth Sunday of Easter Year B**

