

Theme of the Week - The Light has come

Jesus in the Gospel this week gives some very powerful statements that really illustrate the love of God and the relationship we should have with Him. Firstly, Jesus makes this statement: ***"God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life"***. Examine the importance of the word gave! Not sent his son, or choose his son, but the word gave. God gave his son over to be tried and suffer death because he loves us. The greatest sacrifice that could be made was done because of love. In return, God asks us to believe. Believe in this love for us, believe in his son so we then are not lost, believe in Him so we are not condemned.

Jesus then goes on to say ***"For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved"***. Jesus was sent into the world to teach the Good News so we can learn how to be true followers of God. So we can LEARN! God, when sending his son Jesus, He is allowing us the opportunity to better ourselves, to live our lives in the way He intended. Not to judge others, not to cause hurt or anger to others, not to live a life of sin. God, due to His everlasting love for us is giving us a chance; in fact He gives us many chances to be saved! In the Lord's Prayer we say, ***"Forgive our trespasses"*** we ask the Lord not to condemn us for what we have done wrong. However, the Lord then asks us to do something ***"As we forgive those who trespass against us"***. The Lord teaches us to be Christ through one another so we can save one another and ourselves from despair.

Finally, Jesus says, ***"that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil"***. Sadly, how true is this statement! When we look around the world today, we can see acts of evil and people choosing to do this, to hurt others for their own greed, desires or needs. In addition, many of those who choose to commit this hurt to one another never choose to have Jesus in their life, never choose to follow the light! ***"but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God"*** How lucky we are to not only have Jesus in our lives but also be given the opportunity to follow that light. And the beauty of God's love for us is even in times where we actually possibly blow out the light when we commit sin and don't follow the teaching of Jesus, God immediately illuminates himself again in his forgiveness of us; So that the light of Jesus is shown to us again, and again, and again in his everlasting love. In return, all he asks us is to follow the light!

This week, how can you show your love to God in a way that he has shown his love for you?

The Light has come

Weekly Reflections
10th March 2024



A reading from the Gospel of St John (3:14-21)

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

Day 1

What does the word love mean?

How does God show his love for us when sending his Son to suffer and die?

How do you show your love to God?

Day 2

Why do you think Jesus is referred to as the light?

How has Jesus shown the light to you?

How can you show the light to others?

Day 3

Each day three of each week in Lent will be given to pray two Stations of the Cross:

Station 7: Jesus carries the Cross

Station 8: Jesus is helped by Simon of Cyrene

Prayer for the Week

Dearest Lord, we pray.

Look upon us who call to you,
O Lord, and sustain our weaknesses; By your unfailing light, you allow us to walk with you always. Bring those rescued by your mercy from every evil to reach the highest good.

Through Christ our Lord

Amen.

Feast Day - St Patrick - 17th March



St Patrick is credited with the conversion of Celtic Ireland, an island never colonized by Rome. The patron saint of Ireland alongside Sts. Columba and Brigid.

Patrick was born a Christian in Britain (Wales or Scotland), and at 16 abducted by Irish raiders and carried to Ireland. Forced to work as a shepherd, in the process he discovered a latent spirituality. After fleeing slavery in Ireland, he travelled to France, where he was ordained and performed missionary work before Celestine I made him a bishop and sent him to Ireland to "gather the Irish into the one fold of Christ".

St Patrick was:

Active and Curious