

1 Peter 3.15-18

This passage has always appealed to me because of its emphasis on communicating the Christian faith with gentleness and respect. But there is much more here than a simple guide to Christian evangelism, because what we have in this short passage is a description of Christian discipleship. Revering Jesus in our hearts is about recognizing that the centre of our lives is Jesus, for he is the object of our love and absolute devotion. Hence prayer and worship are imperative and essential.

However, we are to be people of mission, sharing our faith in Jesus with others. The Christian way of life is to be defended but this should be done with courtesy and deep respect for those we are talking to. A clear and calm sharing of who Jesus is and how we know his presence in our daily lives is what are required of us. The emphasis on a clear conscience reminds us of the daily need to recognize our shortcomings and failures, confess them and ask for grace to overcome them and lead a life of joy, peace and service to others. Furthermore it will be our good lives that will be the best way to counter false accusations. Actions speak louder than words. We are to be salt and light in the world, for and in Jesus. Authentic Christian living carried out with compassionate, prayerful integrity is what is called for.

Peter encourages Christians to remain steadfast under pressure in their attachment to Christ. If Christians suffer for doing good, they should remember that Jesus, though innocent, suffered and died to lead us to God. The servant is no different from his master. To be a Christian means to suffer for Jesus, but it cannot and must not be looked for, it will happen to us and we will glimpse something of what Jesus did for us on the cross.

Elements of the Mass

Rogationtide

Rogation Days (from the Latin 'rogare'- to ask) are, in the Western tradition, days set aside in the early Summer for prayer for a good harvest. Historically from around the 5th century, the 'Major Rogation' was on 25th April, adapted from the pagan practice of 'Robigalia': processions through the fields to pray for the preservation of crops. 'Minor Rogations', processions and litanies took place on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday before Ascension Day. In England, since the Reformation, only the 'Minor Rogations' have survived, shorn for many years of their processions, although in more years these have been revived in some places. Inevitably, 'Rogationtide' is overshadowed liturgically by Eastertide, but perhaps in these days of climate awareness, it needs to have greater prominence.

17th May
2020

The Sixth Sunday
of Easter

The Spirit of Truth



During Eastertide, our Readings from the Acts of the Apostles have taught us how the wonders of the first Pentecost, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, were not confined to a single day. The message of the Good News about the death and resurrection of Christ is carried around the known world, and is accompanied by wonderful signs of healing, joyful conversion and reconciliation. In our Gospel today, we will hear how Jesus promises the Holy Spirit of truth to be with us for ever, to teach us how to live out the love of God in our words and actions. Jesus speaks to our fears and uncertainties and calls us to the apostolic task of living out the Gospel. Yet we are never alone, abandoned or forgotten. The Holy Spirit forms the faithful into a Eucharistic community, and gives us all that we need to bear witness to a broken and needy world.

From the Fathers

I will lift up my hands into your commandments which I have loved. Open my eyes and I shall see, incline my heart and I shall desire, order my steps and I shall walk in the way of your commandments. O Lord, be my God, and let there be no other before you. Grant me to worship you and serve you according to your commandments: with truth in my spirit, with reverence in my body, with the blessing upon my lips

From 'Prayer for Grace', by Lancelot Andrewes (1555-1626, Bishop, theologian)