

Thought for the week
28th April 2019
Second Sunday of Easter

What a week we had last week – from the poignancy of the children having their feet washed through to the joy of Easter day, marred as it was by the suffering of our Christian brothers and sisters in Sri Lanka.

I felt a strong connection to the first Christians, particularly to the bewilderment of ‘how can this be? How can these things happen?’

The readings today touch on some of that bewilderment, but they also touch on the comfort we gain from faith – and the comfort we can give to others when we share that faith.

The disciples were filled with joy when Christ came to them after his rising from the tomb. We are now those disciples. We now have the ‘*great commission*’ to go out and spread the joy of the Gospel – and we need to spread it far and wide. We need to face the world with courage, and with joy, and to trust in our risen Lord that He works always for the good of his people and that he will provide all that we need to enable us to bear witness to the true meaning of Easter – that God, in His infinite wisdom and mercy loves each and every one of us. Loves us so much that he became man, and died for us.

There will always be terror, and fear, and horror, and wrong in the world, for the world is Satan’s. We are the antidote to all that is wrong, we can stand firm in the face of horror, be brave in the face of fear, and calm in the face of terror – holding fast to our belief in the love of God, shown in the events we commemorated last week.

We can reach out in solidarity to people of all faiths suffering persecution and even death for the sake of that faith. Please pray for all those affected by the Sri Lankan bombings, including the families of the bombers.

Our world stands in need of many things. Individually and collectively, our church family may not be able to provide for every need, but I believe love, and the peace that comes from (and with) that love are gifts we can share. The early Christians drew others to them because they were ‘loud in their praise’; we too need to be heard praising our God and thanking Him for the great gift we have been given.