

## Passion Sunday

March 2020

My Dear friends,

Today, we find ourselves as a nation and world, holding our collective breath as the Coronavirus ravages nation after nation. Every soul lost a tragedy of incalculable sadness and sorrow, every soul infected being cared for by dedicated and committed doctors, nurses and carers. This almost unprecedented outbreak of such a deadly virus is challenging people's way of lives as never experienced in the modern world in which we all live. We hear every day now the these three basic messages, Stay at Home, Wash your hands and keep our precious NHS safe, maybe we could add another "AND PRAY".

Through and beyond this crisis, we need to have something upon which the world can base Hope, hope for the now and hope for the future. That Hope for every Christian is based on the redemption of the world by Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. It was not just something rather strange that happened a long time ago on a Hill outside Jerusalem. It was God entering history at a particular date in time and a specific point on the map.

If this had never taken place the whole structure of our present civilisation would be entirely different. We might still have been worshipping the pagan gods of ancient Rome. There would be no New Testament and no New Covenant. There would be no Bible, for it is more than likely that the Old Testament would be still nothing more to us than a Hebrew history book.

There would obviously be no Christian ethic to spiritualise society. Even if some sort of moral organisation had evolved it would lack the yeast of the Christian Gospel with its peculiar characteristics of ethical mysticism, mercy and sacrificial love. On a personal level, what Hope would there be to which a man could cling? What solid truth would there be to follow in a world of ambiguous philosophies, secularism, selfishness, greed and speculation.

The Redemption has redeemed and saved us from despair of being lost without a light. God has neither abandoned us nor left us to grope in the chaos that is currently engulfing the world. As Christians, we know what happened at that first Easter (from the despair of the Passion to the reality and Joy of the Resurrection) and we can stake everything on that.

The world does not have to ask: - Where is God? We Know. He is in Jesus Christ.

Let us commit ourselves anew to Our Blessed Lord Jesus Christ and earnestly pray for the worlds Salvation.

In His Love

+lan