

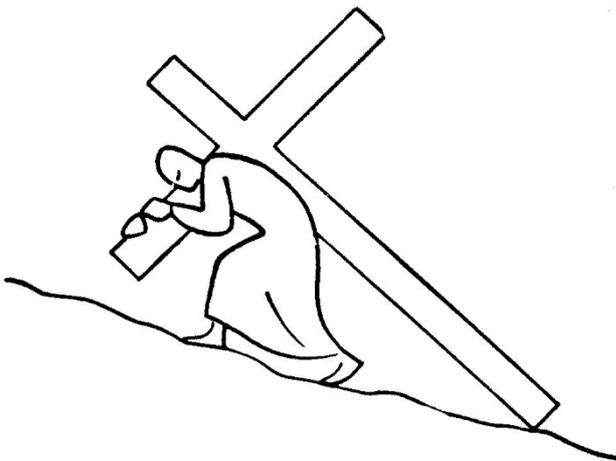
From The Rectory

April 2018

Let's see, it's Thursday 1st March and therefore St. David's day, as well as the 1st day of Spring. Mind you it's a far cry from either looking or feeling anything like Spring for the Beast from the East has arrived with a vengeance. "Baby it's cold outside", but here in St. John's it's dry and warm. Considerably warmer than the Rectory!

We're not accustomed to or prepared for this sort of weather. Moreover, we don't like or take kindly to being inconvenienced by extreme weather conditions be it wind, rain, snow or hail or any combination thereof. Mind you I kind of look forward for an excuse to hunker down and to simply surrender to solace.

It seems to me that Christ's Passion is about Jesus surrendering everything, and I mean absolutely everything' for you and me. As part of their observance of Lent a goodly number of people give up something. Often chocolate, alcohol, cake or biscuits are targeted. Whereas the discipline of abstaining from something we like and enjoy during Lent is to be commended it is but a token of sacrifice. This becomes ever so apparent when examined in the light of Christ's sacrifice on the cross which the following so poignantly illustrates:



A summer tourist at Europe's Oberammergau Passion Play stepped up beside the cross carried by Christus to have his picture taken. In jest he turned to pick up the cross, but could not. "I thought it was a hollow thing you carried!", he said. The bearded wood-carver replied, "You cannot play the part of Jesus and carry a hollow cross; you have to bear the full weight of the cross to feel the presence of the Master."

Hopefully by the time this appears on your doorstep the Beast from the East will be a distant and fading memory and Spring will be well and truly underway.

Easter falls on 1st April which is often referred to as April Fools' Day. It seems appropriate to conclude with the following two verses from I Corinthians as something to think about:

We are fools for Christ's sake. 1 Cor. 4.10

For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. 1 Cor.1.25

With every blessing

Stephen