

**OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA, WEYMOUTH**  
**HOMILY FOR THE 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT (B)**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2015**

“We should like to see Jesus,” said the Greek people, foreigner visitors, who were in Jerusalem at the same time as Jesus.

“We should like to see Jesus.” People here in Weymouth sometimes say that, too, when they see Christians actively helping people in need.

Even Catholics say it sometimes. We come to Mass, we say the prayers, but “we” should like to see Jesus.”

So how can we see him since he has passed from our sight and returned to his Father in heaven? The Gospel gives us a clue.

Philip and Andrew told Jesus that the Greeks wanted to see him, but instead of meeting them Jesus starts to talk about his death on the Cross.

The Gospel ends with Jesus saying: “When I am lifted up from the earth I shall draw everyone to myself”, and John who wrote the Gospel explains, “By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

Apparently the Greeks did not see him after all. Instead Jesus told them and tells us to look for him “lifted up from the earth”, and where do we see him “lifted up from the earth?” but on the Cross?

So this is the first place to look and see Jesus.

The Cross is veiled now for our commemoration of the Lord’s Passion. We shall not see him again until he is unveiled on Good Friday.

That’s how he wants us to see him, but why on the Cross? The Letter to the Hebrews, our second reading, tells us why.

“During his time on earth, Jesus offered up prayer and petitions, aloud and in silent tears.”

Jesus loves people so much that he weeps over all our suffering

Think of how we suffer when someone we love is suffering.

Think of Jesus suffering like that for all the suffering in the world not just now but in the past and in the future.

The crucifix reminds us of how much Jesus loves us.

There were times when it was too much for him, he wanted to escape from the pain, but he knew that if he avoided the Cross people would be able to say that his love was limited.

He had to suffer anything and everything to show the infinity of his love.

Jesus on the Cross shows us that his love was real and for ever; no amount of pain or suffering was too much for him.

“He learnt to obey (God) through his suffering.” He was faithful.

It’s not just history, an example to encourage us The letter to the Hebrews tells us that when Jesus prayed he prayed to the one who had the power to save him out of death.

God his Father raised Jesus from death on the first Easter Day. By raising Jesus God showed not only that was accepted Jesus’ sacrifice but that now Jesus has power over death and “became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.”

In other words if we follow Jesus in faith, even if we have to suffer and although we have to die, our faithful suffering and death will make us perfect and enable to us live with Jesus for ever.

Jesus brought life out of death, good out of evil, so whenever we see people overcoming evil with good, we see Jesus alive and active in our world.

“We should like to see Jesus.” Then look first at the crucifix and then look at all those people who are trying to overcome evil with good.

**Rev Geoffrey Carey**