

CELEBRATE EASTER

Wednesday, Second Week of Easter

Serenity is the peaceful surrender to the flow of life.

Acts 5:17-26

The apostles were arrested and jailed. During the night an angel opened the jail and brought them out and sent them with the message, 'go out to the temple precincts and preach this new life' and they went and resumed their teaching.

No jail can prevent the spread of the good news.

Psalm 34

**I will bless the Lord at all times;
His praise shall be ever in my mouth.
Let my soul glory in the Lord;
The lowly will hear me and be glad.**

John 3:16-21

Verse 16 of this Scripture passage is one of the most frequently quoted scripture verses, displayed on banners, signs and bumper stickers... "God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life". This verse is worth memorizing, remembering and contemplating. This is the central message of the Gospel. This is the good news. It tells us that God loved first, and salvation comes from him as his gift. It tells us that God loved the world – not a few favorite people or nation, not even a few good people – but the world. God's love is an all-embracing love.

We are invited to ponder this all-embracing love of God for the world! As Saint Augustine says, "God loves each one of us as if there was only one of us to love."

God's love, his abiding presence, his intimacy has the power to change people and things and the universe. It is this intimacy that brings peace, God's gift of peace. We long for a sense of oneness, a union and communion with others like us and communion with God. We long for the liberation which Jesus proclaimed, which only he can offer. It is this communion that brings peace. Jesus is our door to intimacy with God, others, the universe and self. In Jesus, we discover our freedom and our salvation – Jesus is our freedom and our salvation.

Saint of the Day, April 15 - St. Paternus and 10 other saints are remembered this day.

St. Paternus was born at Poitiers, about the year 482. His father, Patranus, with the consent of his wife, went to Ireland, where he ended his days in solitude. The mother raised Paternus in great piety. When Paternus grew up he decided to follow in the steps of his father and, obtaining his mother's permission and blessing, he set out to Wales together with a group of other young ascetics seeking the solitary life.

In Wales, Paternus started to withdraw for solitary prayer. But, in a short time, together with other monks, Paternus founded the great Monastery of Llanbadarn Fawr ("the Great Monastery of Padarn") near to Aberystwyth in the former county of Cardiganshire, which is now Ceredigion. Some 120 monks lived in this monastery under St. Paternus. Paternus was most probably not only the Abbot of Llanbadarn but also a bishop at the same time. After governing his diocese for thirteen years, he withdrew to solitude in France, and there ended his days about the year 550.

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