

April 2018

Dear reader,

As you read this, despite Easter Sunday being in April (just!), I suspect it will be little more than a memory. But that still doesn't stop us remembering the celebration and, more to the point, the preceding week of Christ's passion.

Some of you will have attended one or more of the events under the "Come and See" banner which were held across the Deanery during Lent. At one of the events I went to we were challenged to think about what we are passionate about.

When we think of passion, we tend to think of something which we are really enthusiastic about, something we'd move heaven and earth for, someone who we couldn't live without. We see passionate fans crying on the terraces when their team loses. And so it got me thinking how that relates to Christ's passion.

For was Christ really passionate about dying? Passion comes from the latin *passionem* which means 'suffering' or 'enduring', which is certainly what he underwent. As such it seems to have a much more negative connotation than when we talk about passion in our daily lives. When we are passionate about sport we don't immediately think of suffering. When we talk about a passion for music, we don't again think of suffering. When we are passionate for our partners (I hope!) we don't consider it suffering.

But think again. What about an olympic athlete, passionate about their event? They will certainly suffer along the way; sacrificing time and family, enduring injury and pain, pushing through the pain barrier to achieve the ultimate goal.

Passion is about giving your all at the expense of all else. It's something Jesus most definitely did. Yet that was not for him, but for each one of us.

So how much of what we say we are passionate about would we give our all for? Our jobs? Our family? Our faith? It's something I'm still reflecting on, because until we find our passion, I don't think we can ever be truly be satisfied.

As you reflect on the Easter story, and especially the new start which Jesus offers through the Resurrection, perhaps it's time for you to make a new start?

What are you passionate about?

Yours in Christ

Rob

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