

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March @ 10am

Readings

Jeremiah 31 31-34

Hebrews 5 5-10

John 12 20-33

Collect for The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thought for the Week    Emblem Of Suffering

The Victory of the Cross puts into perspective our journey, our much lesser crosses. Whether we see the cross with the crucified figure of our Lord, or as an empty cross, there is an awesome simplicity, a barrenness, even in those two pieces of wood, which never varies.

Just an upright and a horizontal, the emblem of suffering and shame, as we sing in the old hymn. One piece of wood laid across another, symbolizing the Friday in history when the world's greatest negative force clashed with heaven's greatest positive and when the two were fused into the greatest victory either earth or heaven had ever known. The cross still points in triumph to the heavens.

The magnet of the cross draws people to Jesus, where in his body the scars are still visible. Let us, on this Passion Sunday, marvel again, in reverent wonder, that they are there, as fresh as the day when they were inflicted: for there is still evil and suffering in the world.