

Easter 6A

One of the Serb generals at his trial in the Haigh about three year ago was accused of genocide committed during the 1991 – 95 war especially after what happened at Srebrenica massacre. But at the same time many of his fellow Serbs regarded him as a national hero. National pride blinded them to the truth.

For some Truth varies depending on which side you are on? But in the world of mass communication we also need to be aware that the news media often puts a spin on what it wants us to hear in order to sway our thinking. Is that another way of compromising the truth? And God only knows what part will fake news play in trying to influence this country's forthcoming election.

In today's Gospel Jesus promised his followers the Spirit of Truth. Pope Emeritus, Benedict, some years ago, said that contemporary man is "wounded as a result of a crisis of Truth". Pilate's question to Jesus, "truth, what is that" has become our question. In a certain sense the very search for objective truth has been abandoned. Euthanasia is an example. Some people say it is an act of mercy. But we know that boundaries are crossed. Allowing a dying person to die with dignity on the one hand and having their lives ended prematurely when they're not at death's door on the other, are two quite different things. We can't have it both ways.

Jesus says: 'The Father will give you another Advocate, the Spirit of Truth whom the world can never receive'. These words seem to suggest that those who are guided by the Holy Spirit in their thinking and acting may find themselves at loggerheads with worldly-minded people more influenced by public opinion or by the mass media than by what is objectively true or false.

In our politically correct society, tolerance toward other religions is something which we pride ourselves on. It is to be

applauded, provided it's not seen as a denial of our own convictions. St Peter in the second reading says that "we must have our answers ready for people who question us about our faith" The Holy Father has said that 'if we know the truth, must we hide it in the name of tolerance'. Part of the tolerance packet is that all religions are of equal value. According to some if I decide to change my religion it is not to be called 'conversion' because that would assign a higher status to the faith I am joining and so contradict the idea of equality. But as we've seen in the same gender marriage debate a few years ago there are false ideas of equality being bandied around these days contrary to the truth and many people have fallen for them.

Jesus said to Pilate, "I have come into this world to bear witness to the Truth and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice". Pilate, however buried the truth for his own ends.

Jesus says 'the truth will set you free'. As we draw nearer to Pentecost let us pray that the Holy Spirit may free our lives from falsehood and error and help us live out the truth in love.