



## ***3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY of EASTER YEAR B – April 15, 2018***

Bishop Schlert was with us on Tuesday to celebrate the sacrament of confirmation with 72 of our Students. We ask you to pray for them and their families that their commitment to their baptismal promises may grow deeper and stronger every day. We are all called to be saints. We have the capacity to do that. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are there to help us when the going gets rough.

The message from God in the Scripture readings today can be summed up in a phrase that provokes a good deal of thought - pain is passing, beauty is lasting. What does that mean in the life of Jesus. It simply means that all his suffering here on earth, including the painful events of Good Friday have passed away. The beauty of Easter Sunday will last forever.

What does all that mean for us. It means that all our suffering here on earth will pass away too, and the beauty of our Easter Sunday morning will last forever. Do you believe that? It is after all, a matter of faith - but faith in someone who has shown us the way. Trust our Lord.

That's easier said than done. While you're enduring the pain of your own Good Friday, it's not easy to remember that your Easter Day is not far away. All of us have crosses to carry and the pain of carrying a cross is not always eased by looking forward to what is yet to come, but is not yet here.

Even Jesus prayed, Father if it is possible, let this suffering pass me by, and then he added, not my will but thine be done. Jesus tells us to pick up our cross each day and follow him. It can be done.

Today, He opens our minds to understand the scriptures that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. He says to us what he said to his Apostles, "You are witnesses of these things."

Reflect today on how you bear witness to all that Jesus did for us up to and including Good Friday and all he continues to do for us since Easter Sunday Morning.

Your witness on behalf of our Lord is essential in our culture today. Some would have us believe that God did not create us but that we created God. They believe that science can explain everything without God. They are wrong.

**"For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own likings, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander into myths."  
-- 2 Timothy 4:3**