

5th Sunday of Lent

New Zealand has more flightless birds than any other place

They've lost their natural gift

Are we content to be flightless - or are we ready to soar like eagles?

Soaring should come naturally to Christians!

Today's Gospel starts with Greeks (Gentiles/Us) **WE WANT TO SEE JESUS**

They want to be eagles – BUT

If you really want to see Jesus be prepared to go beyond 'religion'

Be prepared to go beyond externals of Church, Jesus wants HEARTS. – willing to spread wings of faith and soar like eagles!

That is what God says through JER in the 1st reading:

“The days are coming says the Lord when I will make a new covenant – not like the covenant I made with your fathers. I'll write my law upon their hearts. I will be their God, they will be my people. No longer will they need to teach friends and relatives to know the Lord. ALL from the least to the greatest shall know me. I'll forgive their evil doing and remember their sin no more.”

NO MORE EXTERNAL LAW ON TABLETS OF STONE

LAW ON HEART DEMANDS INTERNAL CONVERSION – **are you ready?**

Did you know the Gospel of John has no last supper?

FOOT WASHING (servant)

Did you know the Gospel of John has no Garden of Gethsemane?

TODAY's reading.

If you want to see Jesus – it includes the passion – this Way of the Cross

This Gospel shows the anxiety of Gethsemani for John

Greeks want to see Jesus – here he is:

“Whoever loves his life loses it - A grain of wheat must die to produce fruit

I am troubled now, what should I say? Father save me from this hour?

But it was for this purpose that I came to his hour”

Do you really want to see Jesus?

Then it demands moving from external religion to internal conversion

It includes the CROSS

It includes giving of self – serving the weak @ school, @ work, @ home

Everything from the sacrifice of visiting a sick neighbor to the sacrifice of the Archdiocesan Appeal

In JC's struggle He says, “Father, save me from this hour” and GOD SPEAKS.

WHERE ELSE DOES GOD SPEAK TO JESUS LIKE THIS?

Baptism - Transfiguration - Crucifixion - and HERE

When Jesus needs the Father, He was there - When we need the Father, He is just as present for us!

We are moving from Lent to Easter

From **Exterior** observance of religion – with FASTING, PENANCE, and Prayer

To **Interior** observance of Faith BELIEF - RESURRECTION

Jesus said:

When I am lifted up from the earth I will draw everyone to myself

He is lifted up and we are drawn to Him –

We have a New Covenant – and we can have new hearts – with wings that soar like eagles