



## Maundy Thursday Revd Canon Jeremy Dussek

# Lent2021

On Maundy Thursday 2008, I was at the Chrism Service in Birmingham Cathedral, when I received an urgent text from the vendors of the house I was trying to buy. They were desperately pushing me to exchange contracts so they could complete the sale before the end of the Financial Year; so often we can be at the hands of others who seek to tempt and pressurise us to act for their own financial gain!

In agreeing to betray Jesus, Judas thinks he will gain power by receiving thirty pieces of silver. It's the opposite message of the Last Supper that follows; here Jesus reveals the true meaning to finding fulfilment by giving his power away by serving others; that's how God's glory is revealed and what we need to remember in our search for God's blessing today! (Don't our NHS and care workers remind us of that at this time!)

As Judas goes on to make a fool of himself by realising that the silver now has no value or meaning, he subsequently hangs himself. The chief priests panic and use the silver to purchase and desecrate a piece of land which becomes 'the Field of Blood'.

How often do we throw away and waste the earth's resources because of our erratic behaviour? How often do we seek to find personal fulfilment and status through exploiting rather than serving others?

On this April Fool's Day, let's remember that Jesus' actions may still seem foolish to the world, but as St Paul reminds us - the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom as Easter reveals!

**Revd Canon Jeremy Dussek, Chester Cathedral**

"After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, 'Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.' And he took the bread, gave thanks and broke it and gave it to them saying, 'This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.'"

*Luke 22:17-19*

### Information Point

The Live Simply award is for Catholic Communities – but the website has some great advice for faith communities to live simply.

<https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Livesimply-award>

### A prayer

Heavenly Father, Suffering Servant

Forgive us when we have acted like Judas through our desire for power and self-fulfilment. In taking bread and wine, may our attitudes and desires become more Christlike as we serve others in sharing his love by the blood he sheds for our redemption.

Amen.