

2nd Week of Easter Wednesday Jn 3;16-21

dear friends,

The last judgment was probably the subject most commonly painted in the medieval parish churches.

Jesus presides in the middle of the scene and is accompanied by Our Lady and the Saints. The human souls face either being welcomed into paradise or being banished to the fires of hell. It reflects the final judgement described in Mathew's Gospel.

But in John's Gospel today judgement is not something that is imposed by Christ at the end of the world.

Judgement is now and it depends on how we respond to the amazing love of God that has been revealed in sending God's only Son, Jesus Christ, into the world.

God did this not to condemn the world but to save it. The light has come into the world in Jesus.

His light can shine in our lives. If we accept that light our lives will be enhanced but if we hide from the light because we prefer the darkness of our misdeeds, then we are judged.

It is not God who judges us; we judge ourselves now and do not have to wait for a final judgement.

In the Easter events we have seen the love of God revealed in God's Son's willingness to suffer the terrible torture of the Cross for us.

God's love in Christ is vulnerable and does not force. It leaves it to us whether we choose to respond to such love or ignore it. It is our judgement.

Let Us Pray;

Loving Father, You sent your Son into the world that we might be saved. Give us the grace that our hearts may be moved not by fear of your judgement but by the revelation of that amazing divine love in Jesus' passion, death and resurrection. Amen.