

**OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA WEYMOUTH
HOMILY FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
2nd MAY 2010**

“The world of the past has gone. Now I am making the whole of creation new.”

These are the words heard by John in his dream of the end of time, the end of our world as we know it.

“Now I am making the whole of creation new.”

These words were spoken by the “One sitting on the throne” – God.
It is God’s plan to make the whole of creation new.

Last Wednesday I was walking through one of the most remote and most beautiful areas of West Dorset. Only one thing spoiled the peace and natural beauty of the environment. In fields and on fences there were huge notices telling me to vote for change. Unless I missed it they did not tell me exactly what change to vote for, so I started thinking of the changes that Christians might welcome.

Jesus is also for change.

Our gospel comes from Jesus’ words to his disciples at the Last Supper, immediately before the greatest change that could ever happen – his death and resurrection. He was looking ahead to the radically different relationship that he would have with his disciples after his resurrection. Therefore he gave his disciples a new commandment for a new relationship.

His new commandment was simply: “love one another as I have loved you”
This is still his commandment to us in our post-resurrection world – love one another.

At first sight it seems unexceptional. What’s new? Families, friends and communities have always loved each other. There is no reason to suppose they will not go on loving each other. What is different is the kind of love that Jesus is commanding. It has to be seen in context.

Jesus’ death and resurrection show how different his love is.
It is the kind of love that Jesus lived.
It is total and unlimited.
It’s for everyone, everywhere at all times.
It is unconditional and forgiving.
It’s perfect.

That's what's new about it. It's not about feeling. It's an act of will, the will of God.
It's a commandment. We have to love as he loved.
So, thinking back to the posters – vote for change – what change should we hope for?

Perhaps we should vote for the politicians who will give us the best opportunity to love each other as Jesus commanded us; those who will give us the economic security to love, the trust to love, the education to love, the time and energy to love, the encouragement to love.
This really would be a vote for change.

It really would make the whole of creation new, and it's entirely possible because it is the will of God.

Let's pray for it.

Rev Geoff Carey