

Reflection for St George's Day Easter 2020

St George came to personify Christian Chivalry having died a martyr for the faith at the turn of the fourth century. Because of this he was invoked often during the crusades and was brought back to England and became its patron in the 13th Century. The story of the dragon grew up to emphasise his chivalry. Today we can invoke his prayers and support to help fight the dragon we face in the form of coronavirus. Rather poignantly. St Paul encourages us in his letter to the Romans (5:3-5) when he writes: *we can boast about our sufferings. These sufferings bring patience, as we know, and patience brings perseverance, and perseverance brings hope, and this hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us.* In the Eucharist Today God speak words of encouragement and perseverance against the threat of evil symbolised by this pandemic. God offers us hope, seeks to strengthen faith, encourages us to persevere and, if we do, God will see us through these difficult times. Because Jesus has been through the greatest of trials - enduring hatred, rejection and supreme suffering. We can be reassured that he stands closely with us in our difficulties whatever they are and however difficult. Jesus rose again to show us that we will come through our present trials victorious and share with him a life renewed. So, let us join with the Angels and especially St George and sing: **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Baris conquered Ascapart, and after slew the boare,
And then he crossed the seas beyond to combat with the Moore.
Sir Isenbras and Eglamore, they were knights most bold,
And good Sir John Mandeville of travel much hath told.
There were many English knights that Pagans did convert,
But St. George, great St. George, plucked out the Dragon's heart!
St. George he was for England; St. Dennis was for France,

Let us sing together: Honi soit qui mal y pense!

May green be the grass you walk on,
May blue be the skies above you,
May pure be the joys that surround you,
May true be the hearts that love you.
May your home be bright with cheer,
May your cares all disappear,
May contentment come your way,
And may laughter fill your day.

End Note:

Matt goes into a shop which sells flags and asks for a green union jack.

The shop assistant has to explain to him that you only get union jack flags in red, white and blue.

Matt considers this for a while, and then says, 'In that case I'll have a blue one.'