

### Reflection Friday Easter Week 3 St George Patron of England 2021

We certainly need the message Paul gives us in his letter to the Romans for the feast of St George. It is uplifting and strengthening to hear that the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit and that our sufferings bring patience, and patience brings perseverance, and perseverance brings hope, and this hope is not deceptive. Also, to be reminded that we share in the victory of Christ over death or better that Christ shares his victory over death with us. Nothing can defeat us, not even the pandemic. As we look to the future there is more hope as we are called to persevere in thinking of others and maintain the safeguards for keeping the virus under control which, at heart, we want to do. St George reminds us that in putting others first everybody benefits including ourselves and, like St George we, too, can become heroes in our own name through the sacrifices we make, even if we do not have a day dedicated to us. Working for the common good should be part of our everyday language and central to our thinking. We have become fully aware that more and more issues of the world can only be overcome by people and nations working together – the climate emergency being at the forefront which implies providing the support needed for the poorer developing nations. Our faith rightly calls us to preserve and place the highest value on all life from its beginning to its end, including the life of our planet. Make the sacrifices called for now; live more simply, be less wasteful, reuse, recycle and your children's children with thank you for it. St George pray for us and for our planet.

*God, let the witness of your martyr George who stands for the values of your community, against the powerful empire of domination, remind us of the journey we must take – a journey showing compassion, mercy and justice to all so that our world might be healed in these difficult times and brought back from the ways of violence to the ways of wholeness. May any ideas of excluding others be removed from our minds and lives, as we realise that in you, generous God, there is no scarcity of blessing. We do not have to try and own you or define you – you have already defined us by making us in your image and by showing us the example of your vulnerable love. (Garth Hewitt)*