



Saint Paul's  
CATHOLIC PARISH ALBION PARK

# *The Hope of New Creation*

Week 2 - Purgatory and Hell

# Universal salvific will

God wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:4 LEB

Yet God leaves us free to accept salvation or to remain in any unforgiven sin

# **Not** three options when you die

1. **Heaven** Only the really good people – the true saints go to heaven
2. **Purgatory** Everyone else rots away here
3. **Hell** All of the really, really bad people end up down here



There are only two options

1. Heaven

*Purgatory is Heaven's bathroom*

*When you need to freshen up before the feast*

2. Hell

# The Church has 3 parts

- *The Church* **triumphant**
  - Saints in heaven
- *The Church* **militant**
  - People of God on earth
- *The Church* **expectant**
  - The Souls in purgatory

# What is Judgement?

Over the course of our whole life  
the choice of our life takes on a certain shape

At the moment of our death  
our life-choice becomes definitive  
as we stand before God as judge

There is nothing arbitrary about the  
judgement – it is based in truth on who we are

# What is Purgatory?

**Little in scripture; most images come from**

- St Thomas Aquinas (Thirteenth century)
- Dante Alighieri (early Fourteenth century)

Most Christians, remain sinful in some measure right up to death, and therefore need cleansing

- *We can help in this process*
  - by prayers, and especially the Mass

# How long in Purgatory?

**Purgatory** *takes as long as necessary*

**Purgatory** *is a spiritual reality (souls only)*

**Purgatory** *takes place outside of time*

*“it is the heart’s time”*



# Church teaching on Purgatory

**Read** *Spe Salvi* – *On Hope*

*Encyclical letter of Pope Benedict XVI*

30 November 2007

especially paragraphs 44-48

# So what about Hell?

The word 'hell' comes from Germanic origins meaning 'to cover or hide'

## **Hell** in scripture

- In the Hebrew scriptures
  - 'Sheol' – *the realm of the dead*
- *Similar to the Greek idea of 'Hades'*

# Gospel Hell

In the Gospels – used 11 times

- 7 times in Matthew
- 3 times in Mark
- 1 time in Luke
- (Plus) 1 time in James

## Hell = garbage dump

- **Gehenna** is, literally, the valley of Hinnom, on the south-west slopes of Jerusalem.
- From ancient times it was used as a garbage dump, smouldering with a continual fire.
- Already by the time of Jesus some Jews used it as an image for the place of punishment after death.

***It is on earth that things matter***

## Lazarus & the rich man

- Jesus talks in Luke 16 about a rich man who ignored a poor beggar named Lazarus who was outside his gate.

*The rich man is dead but he hasn't died.*

We become like what we worship  
We reflect what we worship

- Money

- Sex

- Power

- Idols / Stuff

*Beyond hope*  
*Beyond pity*

# The key question

*‘How will God’s new creation come?’ and then, ‘How will we humans contribute to that renewal of creation, and to the fresh projects which the creator God will launch in his new world?’*

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- Video reflection by *Dan Stevers*: **Evermore**