

Tuesday 9th August 2022

John 18: 38-40 *“What is truth?” Pilate asked. With this he went out again to the Jews and said, ‘I find no basis for a charge against him. But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release “the king of the Jews”?’*

They shouted back, “No not him! Give us Barabbas!” Now Barabbas had taken part in a rebellion.”

We may wish for there to be no need for politics with its manoeuvring and horse trading for advantage but it has been part of history for millennia.

Pontius Pilate represented the hated Roman oppressors. Although militarily defeated the people of Judea remained defiant and restive. Pilate could see no reason to confirm a death sentence on Jesus but in the end he placated the mob by doing so and releasing a convicted rebel against Rome, Barabbas as well. This sorry episode demonstrates where justice and fairness become distorted by political expedient wielded by those in, and those who want, power.

Let us pray for tolerance, understanding, honesty and wisdom in politicians as they seek to attain positions of leadership.