

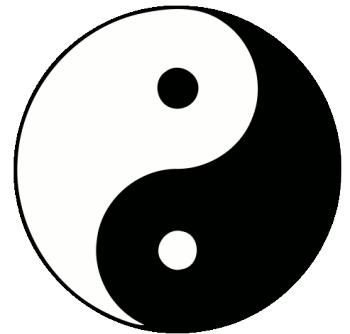
PRAYER FOR APRIL 2012



The story is told that when Leonardo da Vinci was painting his masterpiece “ The Last Supper”, he looked for a model for his Christ. At last, he located a choirister in one of the churches of Rome who was lovely in life and features, a young man named Pietro Bandinelli.

Years passed and the painting was still unfinished. All the disciples had been portrayed save one Judas Iscariot. Now he started to look for a man whose face was hardened and distorted by sin – and at last he found a beggar on the streets of Rome with a face so villainous that he shuddered when he looked at him. He hired the man to sit for him as he painted the face of Judas on his canvas. When Leonardo was about to dismiss the man he said, “I have not yet found out your name.” “I am Pietro Bandinelli,” he replied. “I also sat for you as your model of Christ.”

The literal truth of the story is disputed but we cannot argue with the true meaning of the story. In each of us is the capacity to be a Judas or a Jesus – a sinner or a saint. The Chinese yin yang symbol states the same truth. We are not totally one or the other. An old saying reminds us that



***‘there is so much good in the worst of us
and so much bad in the best of us
that it ill behoves any of us
to talk about the rest of us’.***

Over the period of Holy Week and Eastertide may we come to a deeper understanding of this truth and acknowledge the divisions within ourselves.

We ask Jesus, who experienced the effects of the good and evil forces around him, to help us to have compassion and understanding in our dealings with ourselves and others.

We ask for help to overcome any judgemental attitudes we have and to give others the benefit of the doubt as we would wish them to do for us.

We ask Jesus to teach us again to hope – to hope in the one who alone will fulfil all that he has promised, the one who can always turn evil to good and despair to hope.