

## Homily Notes for RCIA Testimony

**Acts 15** – we have the essentials of morality for Christians and Jews

These 4 things to avoid are not about Salvation – eternal life – because this is a gift from God, given to us through faith and forgiveness of our sins, and nothing we can deserve simply by good behaviour.

The Gentile Christians were asked simply to honour their Jewish Christian brothers and sisters by avoiding those things that they were brought up to consider really disgusting:

1. Don't even give the impression of going along with the worship of idols, of anyone other than God, the only true God; so don't eat meat that was offered to idols.

Since Noah's day and the Alliance God made with him for all of humanity, there are a few obligations just to do the decent thing, which are:

2. Don't eat meat with blood still in it – since it is the blood which carries the life breath which comes from God – this is to honour God who alone gives life to all things.
3. Don't eat anything strangled – this may simply be humane – to kill animals for food in a manner that is swift and efficient and causes little or no suffering.
4. Avoid sexual immorality – especially with close relatives – remembering that God intends sexual union to be for a husband and wife to build a stable family.

**Revelation 21** – we see the holy heavenly City of God – Jerusalem – in which God dwells with his People...

1. The City of God is radiant with the glory of God
2. All who enter come in through the 12 tribes of the children of Israel, God's 1<sup>st</sup> people
3. The strength of the City of God rests on 12 foundations – the 12 Apostles of the Lamb
4. The faithful dwell in God and are forever worshipping Him in all they live, say and do
5. The glory of God is their light in all things – the Lamb is their lamp in life

**John 14** – Jesus' testament to his apostles and disciples

1. Whoever loves Jesus keeps his word, coming from the Father, and the Father loves them
2. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, teaches us everything and reminds us of Jesus' words
3. Jesus leaves us his peace – not the world's peace which needs quiet and absence of conflict or struggle – Jesus' peace comes from putting all our confidence in Him, not in ourselves or each other, just as He put all his confidence in the Father – and this is especially true in time of trouble and in the midst of conflict. This is how Jesus could even from the Cross ask the Father to forgive his tormentors and executioners.