

## INNER STRENGTH

“We must obey God rather than authority” Acts 5:29

Today is the feast day of St George, patron saint of England. Here is a man associated with inner strength in his story of the fight with the dragon. This story has very ancient roots and hints perhaps, in the fight between good and evil which is an unending struggle for human kind! Peter taking a stand says: “We must obey God rather than authority.” To take this kind of stand one needs inner strength but how can we distinguish inner strength from a stubborn spirit of confrontation? How can we be sure which of our convictions come from God and should be followed whatever the cost? Maybe our resistance to authority is based on our own pride? Direct personal revelations are sure quite rare, so how can we tell if God is really prompting us? We need the Holy Spirit’s guidance through personal prayer before in every stand we take. In conflict situations we can also check out our ideas with an honest mentor. It is good to have someone who will tell us the plain truth and help us distinguish between courage and mere obstinacy. Prayer and spiritual guidance help to free us from our obsessions and our comfort zones. We need this kind of listening for a genuine, integrated spirituality.

Fr Naz 23/4/20