

Subject: Daily Prayer and reflection from Father Simon 15th April 2020

From: Anglican Church <anglicanpollenca@gmail.com>

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To: Anglican Church <anglicanpollenca@gmail.com>

BCC: kjgreenall@gmail.com

Let us begin with a few moments of silence to still our minds.....

Lord our God, we thank you for the help you have given us so that we can stand before you, rejoicing in the certainty of faith. We thank you for guiding and leading our lives and for letting us see a goal ahead. Be with us in times of silence when we seem to be alone. Keep us strong and steadfast through all the turmoil of life. Help us to remain unshaken, for you walk with us holding us by the hand. Amen.

Luke 24:13-35

The Walk to Emmaus

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

A reflection on today's Gospel from Father Simon Stephens our locum priest at St Andrew's

Luke 24/13 - 35

Jesus appears to the grieving disciples on the Road to Emmaus

We have all walked the road to 'Emmaus', when the penny has suddenly dropped and we have suddenly realised that we are walking in the presence of the Risen Christ. The two disciples walking on the road to Emmaus were totally immersed in their grief. They had seen the Lord whom they loved so much, tried by Pilate, scourged by Roman soldiers, crucified and buried. How much more could they endure? They had given up everything to follow him. Their lives were in ruins....and then, the 'Hidden Christ' because their grief will not permit them to see him, joins them on that dusty road. Grief is shared - tears flow! The disciples have reached their destination and invite the stranger to stay with them because it is late in the evening. Over a simple meal, Christ blesses and breaks bread and gives it to them...and then the penny drops. Like Mary Magdalene, they have seen the Risen Christ. May we pray during this Easter Week, that our fears, anxieties and sorrows will never ever blind us to the loving and caring presence of the Risen Christ in our lives. - Fr Simon

A time of prayer where you can pray for all those who are affected by the current situation. Pray for the world; for the Church; for our country and Government; for our doctors, nurses and emergency services; for your family, loved ones and friends; for those who are lonely or anxious; for the sick and dying; for the departed; and do not forget to pray for yourself and your own needs and concerns.

On this day that the Lord has made, let us pray for the people he has redeemed. That we may live as those who believe in the triumph of the cross: Lord, have mercy.

That all people may receive the good news of his victory: Lord, have mercy.

That those born to new life in the waters of baptism may know the power of his resurrection: Lord, have mercy.

That those who suffer pain and anguish may find healing and peace in the wounds of Christ: Lord, have mercy.

That in the undying love of Christ we may be united with all who have died in the faith of Christ: Lord, have mercy.

Let us commend the world, in which Christ rose from the dead, to the mercy and protection of God. Open prayer may be offered and silence kept.

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The Conclusion

May Christ our Saviour give us peace. Amen