

Subject: Daily prayer and reflection by Father Simon
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Dear all

Let us begin with our customary few moments of silence to calm our minds.....

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. Amen.

Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

Reflection by Canon Simon Stephens - locum priest at St.Andrew's

Throughout Easter Week, we trace the footsteps of the Risen Christ as he reveals himself to his Disciples, the Apostolic Company. There is the dawn encounter in the Garden with Mary Magdalene with the mists torn apart by just two words, "Mary" and her response "Rabboni"! Then we move on to the road to Emmaus where grief stricken disciples shared with the 'Hidden Christ' their profound sense of loss, only to be rewarded with open eyes when the Man from Galilee breaks bread and feeds them, as he did in the Upper Room on the eve of the Feast of the Passover.

This morning, we find that the Disciples have returned from Emmaus to Jerusalem to share their amazing news. Their eyes have been opened by the breaking of bread. It is difficult not to imagine the awe, the sense of wonder and the incredulity of those gathered disciples, when the Risen Christ suddenly appears in their midst. "Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself"! Christ loved the disciples, but he recognised their inability to grasp the reality of his physical resurrection. As with the Emmaus disciples, Jesus sees the element of doubt in the disciples and once again he eats in their presence. It is comforting to us that Christ recognises our needs...but how many of us invite Him to be present in our homes by asking Him to bless our meals ?? How many of us invite visiting friends and relatives to pray over family meals? As Christians, we have to make the Hidden Christ visible, whenever we break bread and pass a glass of wine.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Matthew 5.9 17

Prayers

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.

Until tomorrow
Blessings Vicky