

Gospel: 3rd Sunday of Easter, Year A

On the Sunday evening two disciples were on their way to Emmaus, a village seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking about everything that had happened and did not recognise the stranger who joined them as they walked along.

“What are you talking about so sadly?” he asked them.

They turned to him, their faces full of their sadness. The disciple named Cleopas answered him. “You must be the only person in Jerusalem who does not know all the things that have been going on these last few days?”

“What things?” Jesus asked.

“What happened to Jesus of Nazareth,” they said, “the great prophet who showed by all he did and said that he was sent by God. Our chief priests and leaders handed him over to the Romans and he was crucified. We had hoped that he was the Promised One who would set Israel free. This morning, some women went to the tomb where he had been buried and came back saying they had seen a vision of angels and that Jesus was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found it empty as the women had said, but they didn’t see anything of Jesus.”

Jesus said to them, “How slow you are to believe! Don’t you remember the promises of the prophets about the Christ who would suffer and rise to new life?” Then Jesus started with Moses and went through all the Scriptures explaining the message about himself.

By now they were near to Emmaus, and they begged him to stay with them. So he did and they sat down at table together. He took the bread, blessed it and broke it and gave it to them. Suddenly, as if their eyes had just opened, they recognised him; but even as they did, he vanished.

“How could we not have known!” they exclaimed. “Weren’t our hearts burning as he talked to us and explained the Scriptures to us?”

At once they set out and returned to Jerusalem. When they arrived, the Eleven and the other disciples said, “Yes, it’s true! He has appeared to Simon!” and then they told their story and how they had recognised him when he blessed and broke the bread. Luke 24:13-35

Reflection: Jesus was walking with the disciples on their journey to Emmaus, even though they did not recognise Him. They were in the depth of despair because Jesus, their friend, had been crucified and now His tomb was empty. When we read today’s Gospel, we may be surprised to learn that these friends of Jesus could walk and talk with him for miles along the road and yet not know him. Once more we can see that the risen Jesus is not always easily recognized. During the meal in which they share in the breaking of the bread, the disciples’ eyes are opened and they recognize the stranger as Jesus. In our world right now, where the virus is our ‘sadness’, we are able to recognise the face of Jesus in ‘the stranger’ more than ever before. We can recognise Him in the NHS staff, care workers, key workers, those working in supermarkets, rubbish collection, post and delivery and other essential services. On our journey through life, we will always have difficult times and this is when we will need and see Him the most – in those who show His love.

Post-it Challenge:

- How can you recognise Jesus in others?
- How good are you at being Jesus for others?
- Who shows you who Jesus is?
- How do they show it?



How will you be the face of Jesus for others? This could be in your actions, your words or your attitudes and behaviours.

Let us pray:

Jesus, you returned to give your disciples courage and strengthen their faith. Thank you for opening the eyes of

those travelling on the road to Emmaus. Though they had been sad, their sadness turned to joy when they realized that you were alive and with them. Let us know that You are always with us on our journey. We pray that Your Spirit will give us strength and courage too, turning our sadness and our difficulties to joy. Amen

