

3rd Sunday of Easter

Like the first group of disciples, we celebrate the reality of the physical resurrection of Jesus from the dead. We encounter the risen Lord and witness to our faith.

God raised Jesus from the dead so that sins may be forgiven. We humbly ask now for that forgiveness.

Acts 3:13-15. 17-19

Peter proclaims the good news that God raised Jesus from the dead for our forgiveness.

1 John 2:1-5

Jesus is the sacrifice who takes our sins away.

Luke 24:35-48

The disciples are stupefied to encounter a very physical Jesus, risen from the dead.



Reflection

In the First Reading today, Peter shows tremendous courage when he confronts the people with their part in the death of Jesus. However, he goes on to excuse them on the grounds that they acted in ignorance. In this he could have been inspired by the dying prayer of Jesus: 'Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.' Peter urges them to repent, assuring them that if they do, their sins will be forgiven.

What Luke is trying to get over in the Gospel is that the risen Jesus is the same person the apostles had known before the crucifixion. Luke emphasises the reality of Jesus' bodily resurrection, but, at the same time, makes it clear that the resurrection is not a return to his earthly life - Jesus has risen to a new life beyond death.

It was only by putting together various passages from the prophets that the early Christians came to accept the idea that a suffering Messiah was part of God's plan of salvation. So Luke give us a picture of the risen Lord showing the apostles how the Scriptures had foretold that the Christ would suffer and so enter into his glory. Jesus also gives them a mission - the proclamation of repentance and the forgiveness of sins.

One theme occurs in our readings: forgiveness is available to people who repent and believe in Jesus as their Saviour. This has got a lot of relevance for us. A lot of ugly crimes are committed today; not all of them can be put down to ignorance. But if there is forgiveness for the people who killed Jesus, then surely there is forgiveness for the people who do these things. God's forgiveness is available to all of us; we can all make a fresh start.

WORDSEARCH

T	S	B	U	O	D	Y	E	S	R	STORY	ROAD	BREAD	FRIGHT
N	E	O	B	T	R	E	H	E	H	GHOST	DOUBTS	HANDS	FEET
E	Y	N	R	O	T	S	C	E	S	TOUCH	BONES	FISH	PSALMS
S	E	E	T	R	H	O	U	C	I				
S	T	S	O	H	G	H	O	A	F				
T	T	A	S	N	I	B	T	E	R				
B	D	O	I	Y	R	R	E	P	I				
U	Y	S	R	E	F	T	D	C	G				
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D	O	D	S	M	L	A	S	P	H				



ST BONAVENTURE'S



The great gift of Easter is hope – Cardinal Hume

The Headteacher, Mr McCormick:

“For me the message of hope T this time is important. As a community of faith we must continue to focus on the future with hope in our hearts, even in these very testing times.

I pray that our children will have hope that, rather than being a lost Covid generation, they will aspire to go on and achieve great things.

Deputy Head, Catholic Life, Mr Lewis:

‘Fratelli Tutti’ (Pope Francis’ encyclical 2020) and the newly published ‘Let Us Dream,’ Pope Francis reflects on the last year and reminds us all, that after a crisis, we will always be changed - we can never be the same again. If we have the courage to seek positive change, we can emerge from the crisis better than before.

This is exactly the message of hope that we should dream about, but also work towards. The Pope reminds us that Christians’ first duty is to serve other people, especially the poor and the marginalised, just as Jesus did.

Through the book, the Pope shows how ordinary people, acting together and despite their differences, can discover unforeseen possibilities. This Easter, more so than ever, we must recognise the power of the Resurrection - the new life that comes at this time.