

Day 31 – Fr Jerome's Lockdown Reflections

3rd Sunday of Easter

26 April 2020

Readings: Acts 2:14a, 36-41, Psalm 116:1-4,11-18, 1 Peter 1: 17-23, Luke 24:13-35

On our own we cannot and will probably never grasp fully the mystery of the resurrection, of Easter life. The two disciples on the road to Emmaus were conversing and debating. They were trying too recount the facts of everything that had occurred in Jerusalem on the previous days but could not believe the mystery.

There was a great desire to move from disappointment and unbelief to hearts burning with life and belief inviting Jesus to stay the night with them. They engaged Jesus and through it the living word of Scripture.

Our own engagements daily with Jesus and our participation in the Word and Sacraments must give rise in us also a great desire, our hearts burning with life to seek life by journeying deeper into the mystery. Word and Sacrament must make our lives turn the page and move us to delve even deeper into the mystery of the risen Life that Jesus continually offers us.

The two disciples did not want to believe the facts of the Jerusalem events that first Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday. That was, until they knew all the facts.

These disciples and all of us who choose to follow Jesus spend our whole lives journeying with Jesus, learning more facts about this risen Life he so generously offers us. Our participation in Word and Sacrament and in particular in this time of distance is our walk with Jesus through life during which he continues to teach us that he is risen and present. In our joys, sorrows, struggles and pains.

Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we, too, must become faithful disciples and make the risen Christ known through our own words and deeds. To do so, we, must expand our vision beyond mere facts. We must assess our expectations and refocus our lives on Jesus and his unfolding mystery. We, too, must eagerly invite him to stay with us.

Events seen from one perspective are often seen differently at a later stage. For example, losing a job can seem to be the worst thing that could happen to us, but then we might get even better and a more fulfilling job. From this perspective, losing the first job was the best thing that could have happened. The disciples on the road to Emmaus were downcast over what had happened because of their lack of belief limited their perspective. The stranger on the road offered them a different perspective.

Today is another opportunity to journey deeper into the mystery of Jesus and may God increase in us all this desire for more of Jesus. Amen