



St. Emilie de Vialar Catholic Church

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**26 April
2020
3rd Sunday
of Easter
Year A**

Entrance Antiphon: Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

First Reading: *A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (2:14, 22-33)*

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him: I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me. So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy: my body, too, will rest in the hope that you will not abandon my soul to Hades nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. You have made known the way of life to me, you will fill me with gladness through your presence.' 'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witness to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

Responsorial Psalm: (Ps. 15)

R. Lord, you will show us the path of life.

- Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you. I say to the Lord: 'You are my God. O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; it is you yourself who are my prize.' (R.)
- I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, who even at night directs my heart. I keep the Lord ever in my sight: since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. (R.)
- And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; even my body shall rest in safety. For you will not leave my soul among the dead, nor let your beloved know decay. (R.)
- You will show me the path of life, and the fullness of joy in your presence, at your right hand happiness for ever. (R.)

Second Reading: *A reading from the first letter of St Peter (1:17-21)*

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down, was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: make our hearts burn with love when you speak. Alleluia!

Gospel: *A reading from the Gospel According to Luke (24:13-35)*

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast. Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all; two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women reported, but of him they saw nothing.' Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself. When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said, 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at the table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?' They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

Memorial Acclamation: When we eat this bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

Communion Antiphon: The disciples recognised the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

MASS INTENTIONS

**All the Masses that our Priests are celebrating in private are being offered “pro populo”
- for the intentions of the people of God.**

Note: Mass intentions envelopes & notices for bulletin are to be submitted/emailed to the office by Wednesday 6pm.

PASTORAL CORNER

The Emmaus story, tells of the disciples leaving Jerusalem dejectedly at the beginning of the story, and rushing to return to Jerusalem with joy at the end. These two aspects frame the two actions of Jesus that are the essence of our experience of the Mass. As you reflect on your own journey of faith, have you ever feared that being a follower of Jesus will demand more from you than you are able to bear? Have you ever been tempted to turn your back and walk away? Just as the two disciples, in their dejection, found Jesus walking alongside them, have you ever had a sense of Jesus walking alongside you in your low moments? Think about what you have experienced that has made Jesus' presence more real for you and helped to keep you committed to your Christian journey? Then during this week look for opportunities to share your own Good News experience with someone else.

Praying the Liturgy of the Hours (The Divine Office) Psalms of Lament

If we are in trouble the Psalms of Lament can help us to express our anguish. They provide us with words at times when words fail us. But what if we are joyful and riding on the crest of a wave and do not feel like praying a lament? We can still pray the lament as part of the suffering Body of Christ, entering into the experience of someone who is in despair, someone whose experience the words of the psalm describe. May be now is the time for us to lament. In doing so we would then be able to *'weep with those who weep'*. (Romans 12:15)

Psalm 129 (130) is prayed during Wednesday Night Prayer (Compline)

Psalm 129 (130)

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.
Lord, hear my voice!

O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my
pleading.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?

But with you is found forgiveness: for this we
revere you.

My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his
word.

My soul is longing for the Lord more than
watchman for daybreak.

Let the watchman count on daybreak and
Israel on the Lord.

Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness
of redemption,

Israel indeed he will redeem from all its
iniquity.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end
Amen

While you are unable to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion you may wish to pray the following prayer

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already here and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

Livestream of Masses

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A beautiful message from Pope Francis

"Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit; the sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other. No matter how difficult it is...Life is good when you are happy; but much better when others are happy because of you."

Let us all remember then that every changing colour of a leaf is beautiful and every changing situation of life is meaningful, both need very clear vision. So do not grumble or complain, let us instead remember that Pain is a sign that we are alive, Problems are a sign that we are strong and Prayer is a sign we are not alone.

If we can acknowledge these truths and condition our hearts and minds, our lives will be more meaningful, different and worthwhile.



A Reflection on the 3rd Sunday of Easter

Fr Jean-Noël MARIE

This year the Universal Church celebrates this Third Sunday of Easter in an unprecedented way due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We face an uncertain future just as it was the case for the two disciples of Emmaus who were marked by sadness and discouragement in this time of confinement and deprivation of the Sacraments and Liturgical celebrations. Today's Gospel sets out to show how each of us can experience the resurrection of Jesus in our personal life. This is our challenge this Easter. How do we personally manifest the Resurrection while we find ourselves house bound and physically disconnected from one another as a worshipping community?

A stranger joins two very disillusioned disciples on the way to Emmaus. All hope is dashed but life, momentarily disorientated, must somehow resume its normal course. But on the road to our Emmaus, Jesus approaches us and joins us and invites us to change course, to turn way from the Emmaus of fear and despair and head instead towards Jerusalem the city of life. In this uncertain time we struggle with this reality. Our eyes are also blinded by sadness and confusion. The same Christ joins our world which is suffering from the Covid-19 pandemic. When all seems so hopeless he is there. But too often we don't recognize it because we are somewhere else. And yet, he's still there, ready to listen to us. We can cry out to him in our suffering, our disappointment and our sadness.

Just like for the two disciples of Emmaus, the Word of God can light up this awful emptiness that we may find ourselves in at the moment. The word of God which is a lamp unto our feet and which shines in the darkness not only brings us consolation but also the healing that we all need. *"Did we not feel our hearts burning while he was talking to us?"*

This Easter the same Risen Christ comes to us into our homes to comfort us and to bless us with his message of Peace. Those words of the centurion now resonate with us in a special way: *"Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed"*.



A people that has been healed and reconciled with God and with one another would not be able to remain bound and downcast. We would therefore set out with great haste to find our brothers and sisters, the Church and bring them the healing and the consolation that they are so in need of.

We are already currently living this new Easter life by taking care of each other, remaining patiently confined despite the frustration that this poses, by supporting in many different ways our dedicated and tireless caregivers, doctors, nurses, cashiers, drivers, shop assistants, garbage collectors and all those who are at the forefront of the fight against the coronavirus. Let us therefore cast away all traces of sadness and gloom and put on Christ and resolutely choose the path of life and humble service of all wherever we may find ourselves.

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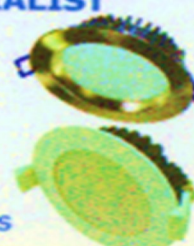


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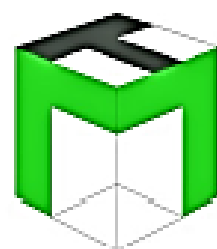
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