

The Catholic Parish Christ the King & St Joachim

He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. - S. Luke 24:27

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Dear friends,
Throughout the Gospels we hear Christ referring back to 'the Scriptures' – that is to the Old Testament. So often it is to speak to us about what had already been said about him. Beginning with Abraham, going through Moses onto the great prophets; God raised up a nation, and revealed himself to them. All of this to prepare them for what was going to come along with Christ. As these two disciples of Christ met with him, they would have known these Scriptures well. But what Christ did was open then in a new way – he brought their attention to meanings which had been dormant. The prophets had spoken of the sufferings which Christ would have to face – but so often the people simply had in mind a triumphant arrival. What Christ did was to meet with them and to explain what the deeper truth was. Everything that had happened to Christ was part of the plan. The disciples may have skipped over the difficult passages in the prophets – they may have expected Christ's mighty works to have been the prelude to a mighty victory...without the suffering of the Cross. In that they were wrong, but what they saw in Christ was true – they had hoped that he was going to be the one to redeem Israel, and indeed he was. But the plan, God's plan set down ages before, was for that redemption of Israel to take place through the Cross. This wasn't something to be rushed – it wasn't a place for short-cuts because this is the most important plan that the world has ever had. As we reflect on the Gospels we're often like those disciples. We've met with Christ, we've realised that there is something special about him; we've followed him...but we also find that something seems not as we expected it. We find that we had misunderstood some element of God's plan. When this happens it can be a very difficult situation to face – we can experience the same sort of disappointment as they did; the same sort of confusion. When this happens, we can look to this story and we can be reassured. Christ met with these disciples – he didn't abandon them. Neither is Christ going to abandon us; when we feel confused about what is going on, when we feel disappointed that the plan isn't unfolding in the same way that we

expect, Christ is still there ready to journey with us. He comes to correct these disciples, to put them back on the right track – and he will do so with us too.

More importantly, this story shows us that everything is in God's hands. There is a plan which he is working through, everything is unfolding as he expected – as he planned. It can be difficult to see this plan at times – it was for these disciples. But when the fulness of the plan becomes clear, our hearts will be filled with joy. When we find ourselves confused, or even disheartened, reflect on everything that God has done – all of those ways in which he has worked in our lives. We may not know where he is leading us – but we can have confidence that he is leading us, and he is leading us to that point where our hearts will burn as we experience that plan of his working out. Blessings, Fr. Thomas.

LIVE- STREAMING FROM THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY

In addition to the regular programme there will be the following:

AN EIGHT DAY RETREAT
Monsignor John Armitage will lead an Eight Day Retreat. This will start after Compline at 8pm on Sunday 19th April and finish on Sunday 26th April. Details of the retreat programme are given on the Shrine website: www.walsingham.org.uk

CATECHESIS
The Shrine is very grateful to Father Stephen Wang for allowing us to use his Sycamore Program. We shall be showing the 20 half hour videos, starting on Monday 27th April. They will be shown at 10.30am and 4.00pm each day.

Live streaming of Mass in the Parish
Given the ongoing crisis the mass will be streamed live on Facebook 10.00am Monday to Friday, Saturday 5pm and Sunday 11.30am. The two pages that mass will alternately be on is 'Christ The King with St Joachim, Eastbourne' and 'Eastbourne Ordinariate'.

Sunday at 11.30am will be streamed direct to the Eastbourne Ordinariate YouTube channel.

Other things of interest

BBC 2 The Pilgrim, follows 6 celebrities, on a walking pilgrimage to Istanbul. **YouTube** has a film called 'All or Nothing', it's the true story of St Clare Crockett. Also the National Theatre is streaming on demand past productions, this next week is the 'Twelfth Night'. Radio 4 each Monday at 4pm has the religious programme, 'Beyond Belief'.

Magnificat

Many have the Magnificat booklet which is excellent for following the mass and with articles of interest. The Magnificat has been made free online for those with the tech. Here's the link below.

<https://us.magnificat.net/home/free-online>

Zoom parish prayer meetings:

We will continue our Sunday morning prayers every Sunday at 10.30am and also we are going to have our Fridays chats including a short evening prayer, on Fridays at 7.00pm.

Meeting ID: 343 302 3105
Password: 340767

We pray for : Chris

Gimmons, Don Wilkins, Mary Bateman, Thelma Kemp, Stuart McCarthy, Sheila Douds, Helena Sagnelia, Peter and Pauline Sollis, Frankie Farrell, Daisy Kelly, Sue & Mick O'Driscoll, Eddie Burke, Rene Cook, Gill Cooke, Jan Blake, Sandra McMeekin, David Dwyer, Eileen Kehoe, Diana Smith, Pat Raper, Colleen Stock, Sr Mary Keiley, Charles El Mawas, Jane Hollands, Kirina Blaty, Moira Morrison,

For the deceased -who have died recently: William O'Donnell, Johnnie O'Hara, Kathy Lewis, Bill Groves, Fr Gerry Flood, Shirley Bollard, Tony Flynn and for all our deceased relatives & friends. RIP

3rd Sunday of Easter

Readings at Mass

Collect

May your people exult for ever, O God, in renewed youthfulness of spirit, so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of our adoption, we may look forward in confident hope to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

First reading

Acts 2:14,22-33

God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to this. 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 witnesses 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

Psalm 15(16):1-2,5,7-11

Show us, Lord, the path of life.

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.'

Show us, Lord, the path of life.

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.

Show us, Lord, the path of life.

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.

Show us, Lord, the path of life.

You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, at your right hand happiness for ever.

Show us, Lord, the path of life.

Second reading

1 Peter 1:17-21

Your ransom was paid in the precious blood of Christ. 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

cf. Lk 24:32

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, explain the Scriptures to us. Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us.

Alleluia!

Gospel: 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

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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 had 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 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.