

KNOWING JESUS IN A NEW WAY

After the Resurrection the disciples needed to know Jesus in a new way, We too, now living through the days of Pandemic, need to discover new ways of being church and new ways of finding Christ.

- 1) Knowing Jesus in Absence; Mark 16; 17-Matthew 28; 1-8 Luke 24; 1-11 John. 20; 1-10;

On the first day of knowing Jesus in a new way, the women went to the tomb.

(They experienced something so wonderful and strange, it is possible to know Jesus deep within without seeing him.)

In this state of absence that we are living through, what new things are you seeing?

- 2) Knowing Jesus in the Breaking of Bread (Luke 24; 13-35) The Walk to Emmaus

The disciples who travel on the Emmaus Road did not recognise that Jesus is with them at first but when he breaks the bread they know for sure it is him. Although we cannot share physically in Holy Communion at present, one vital question from this passage for us would be.

"I Wonder where you now recognise Jesus?"

- 3) Knowing Jesus in honest doubt. (John 20;19-29)

In the story of Jesus's encounter with Thomas we see how Jesus honours our questions and doubts. We see how questions are a sign of mature faith. As a result of Thomas and his honesty we hear one of the finest of all acclamations of faith when Thomas cry's out "My Lord and My God." Many famous paints have depicted this encounter and show Thomas touching Jesus's side and wounds. However if you carefully read this passage you will see that there is no reference made to Thomas actually touching Jesus although he is invited to do so.

Without touch Thomas cry's out "My Lord and my God". Without touch we are required to do the same.

- 4) Knowing Jesus in deep Forgiveness (John 21 1-23)

In this Resurrection encounter Jesus cooks breakfast for the disciples and offers forgiveness. There is a very moving encounter with Peter in which Peter is forgiven three times.

When we admit our weakness it is then that we can truly know God's strength.

St. Paul would later pick up this very theme. (2 Corinthians 12 verse 10) and elsewhere.

5)Knowing Jesus in Making him Known Matthew 28; 16-20

This passage is known as the Great Commission“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember I am with you always.

In sharing the love of Christ with others our own love grows. Knowing that Jesus is always with us, is a continual comfort.

6) Knowing Jesus in Waiting Mark 16; 19-20, Luke 24; 50-53 Acts 1 9-12.

The above passages all cover the Ascension although the disciples must know say goodbye to the physical presence of Christ they look up in hopeful expectation. They are also required to wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit. At the moment we are forced to wait on daily news, and we can feel we have no control over anything that is happening however we can choose our attitude and choose how we wait. May we be like the Palmist “My Soul waits for the Lord” Psalm 27 v14.

7) Knowing Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit Acts 2 1-13.

In Eastertide we are preparing for our next big celebration the coming of the Holy Spirit in a new and dynamic way. With the coming of the Holy Spirit the Church is born.

In all of this waiting, absence and times of honest, doubt, God is present to offer us forgiveness and restoration.

We are an Easter people moving ever closer to the promise of Pentecost.

Pentecost is the time when the disciples lose their fear and teach with great clarity and boldness ...

Loving God we thank you for your presence with us in these dark days

Dispel our fear and doubts and keep us ever hopeful

Teach us to be your true witnesses in word and deed

Rebirth you Church in us.

Amen.