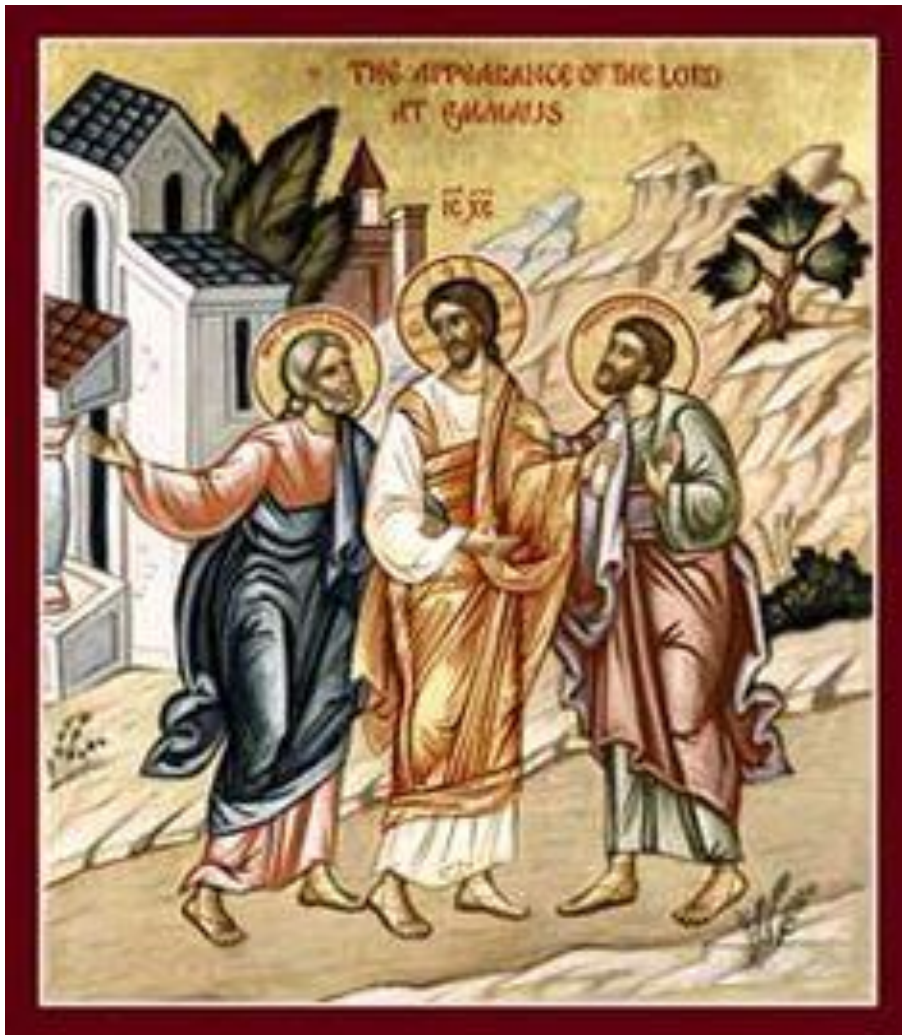


**NEWSLETTER OF THE
PARISH CHURCH OF ST PETER,
JERSEY**



**Issue 5: 26 Apr 2020
Third Sunday of Eastertide
'The road to Emmaus'**

My Dear Friends in Christ,

Before reading my talk please first read the Gospel for this Sunday as we continue to celebrate the forty days of the Easter Season together:

Let us listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St Luke

Glory to you O Lord

Luke 24.13-35

“24.13 Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14 and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, 16 but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17 And he said to them, ‘What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?’ They stood still, looking sad. 18 Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, ‘Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?’ 19 He asked them, ‘What things?’ They replied, ‘The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. 21 But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. 22 Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, 23 and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. 24 Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.’ 25 Then he said to them, ‘Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! 26 Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?’ 27 Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

28 As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. 29 But they urged him strongly, saying, ‘Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.’ So he went in to stay with them. 30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. 32 They said to each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?’ 33 That same hour they got

up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. 34 They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' 35 Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread'. This is the Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you, O Christ**

The words that sprang out to me, as I read the Gospel prayerfully, were these:

"15 While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them" (Luke 24.15)

Have you ever heard the expression, **'walk and talk'**?! Well, in these times, when the authorities are saying to us, quite rightly, that everyone should have some exercise each day (perhaps with a member of your household), in order to help stay healthy in body, mind and spirit, that phrase 'Walk and talk,' has something useful to say to each of us, I feel.

It is amazing how people, who otherwise might be quiet, shy or withdrawn even, will nevertheless 'open up' if out on a walk, together with another person.

Perhaps there is something about the fact that they are already on 'the same journey'; they are 'going the same way'; they have a 'common purpose' or they have a 'common goal'... that makes the person feel, less ill at ease with another, if they 'walk and talk' for there is *already* a commonality together.

On the road Emmaus, Jesus joined two others, who were already 'walking and talking'. One of them was named Clopas, whilst the name of the other was not recorded in the Gospel account.

The three of them then 'walked and talked', exploring many things about the events, of what we now call Holy Week and Easter. In other words' they all talked about Jesus of Nazareth: about his suffering and being put to death on a cross.

All opened up to one another and in the end, Jesus goes into great detail, as to the *meaning* of the scriptures, in relation to 'the Christ', yet the other two even though they were all talking, still did not recognize him as Jesus... but then why should they? For they knew how Jesus had been crushed through Crucifixion.

So in other words, how could they remotely think that this could be Jesus talking with them now on the road to Emmaus. They wouldn't and indeed didn't even suspected that this was Jesus. They had no real reason to do so: People don't come back from the dead.

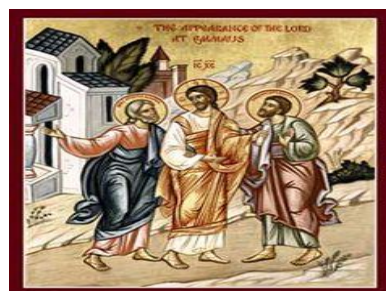
Yet, one thing that *did* happen, was that they were incredibly *excited, animated and talkative* in meeting this particular man and more than that, they even *relished* the 'walking and talking' with him. We know this, because a moment ago, we heard these words in the Gospel reading, "did not our hearts *burn within us* while he talked with us on the road?" So much so, that when they all arrived at where they were traveling to, that is Emmaus, the two men did not just say, "Well, it was nice to meet you. Bye, bye!". Instead, they said to this man "stay with us". In other words, they wanted, as a result of their 'Walking and talking' and may I say, 'Walking and *listening*', that they wanted to continue to 'be together', 'to be *as one* together'. Later, when they had a simple meal together, at the end of the day, suddenly, in a moment all became clear, they knew that actually was Jesus. He had risen from the dead through the love of his Father, for they "recognized him, in the breaking of the bread".

As we go through life, and this is particularly important at this time, there is a huge need, especially for those who are 'shy to be alone with God'.....there is a huge need for us *all* to, as it were, 'walk and talk with God' and more than that, to 'walk and listen' to God, on this pilgrimage: a life pilgrimage, a pilgrimage of life, a pilgrimage *called* life....this 'walking and talking', this 'walking and listening'.

Jesus makes clear, that when we seek him and allow him to speak and us to listen, he *will* be there for us, even if, like the two, who met him on the road to Emmaus, we don't at first recognize his presence. Nevertheless, Jesus *is* there and here, making his presence in the here and now clear to us, 'in the breaking of the bread'. **Amen.**

Every blessing,

Father Michael



WAYS TO WORSHIP IN YOUR OWN HOME:

During Lent it is the custom to say the say the Angelus each day, *but throughout Eastertide* a different Marian devotion, the Regina Coeli, is used, on the theme of the Resurrection: it is also used at the end of Mass, as indeed is the custom at St Peter's. I have put it here, so that you can use this at home if you wish in your daily devotions:

All Sing: Joy to you, O Queen of Heaven. Alleluia!
He whom thou was meet to bear, Alleluia!
As He promised hath arisen, Alleluia!
Pour for us to God thy prayer. Alleluia!

Priest says: Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary. Alleluia!
All Say: For the Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Priest: Let us pray...

O God, who by the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ has brought joy to the whole world: grant, we ask you, that we may obtain the joys of everlasting life, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

SERVICES FROM ST PETER'S RECTORY GARDEN:

Go on www.stpeterschurch.org.je and click on the Church Facebook page. The service for each Sunday will be placed on there at **1030 on the Sunday** and can be viewed at any time of day after that: it will remain on the Face book page. *You do not need to have Facebook yourself to view these services, provided you view them via the Church website:* a number of people have asked me about this.

SUNDAYS Radio & TV:

0810 Each Sunday during the emergency there will be a Service on **Radio Jersey** linked in with the national UK radio.

0900 I will be interviewed on Radio Jersey this Sunday 26 Apr: tune in while you have your breakfast!

1315 Songs of Praise (BBC 2, TV)

1500 As always, *every week of the year* on **Radio 3** listen to the glories of **Choral Evensong** from a different Cathedral or Abbey each week which is a repeat from the previous Wednesday 1530 broadcast. Available for 30 days on BBC Sound.

SUNDAYS: 1900 - LIGHT A CANDLE AND PLACE IT IN A WINDOW VISIBLE FROM YOUR STREET

This simple initiative is from the Archbishop of Canterbury: it will help you and others to know that God, through Jesus, is the light of the world and is always with us. Beware of curtains!! Electric candles are best, if you have them. Please leave them lit for at least an hour, but preferably all evening. Look at the candle: think about what some are already going through and pray for them.

WEDNESDAYS on Radio 3

1530 As always, *every week of the year* on **Radio 3**, listen to the glories of **Choral Evensong** from a different Cathedral or Abbey each week, repeated on the following Sunday at 1500. Available for 30 days on BBC Sound.

CROSS, PALM CROSS especially at this time, CRUCIFIX, ICON

Use these as a focus for your prayers in your own home. Thank you for the many calls of appreciation about the Palm Crosses being sent to you at home.

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Suzette Bradshaw; Dave; Elis; Donald English; Audrey Gem; Peggy Harrison; Jonathan Harvey; Peter Heath; Lester Huelin; Jack Johns; Robin Mallet; Molly; Stephan Mauger; John Le Riche; Riley.

Also, please pray for all those who are ill with the coronavirus.

PRAY FOR THE DEPARTED:

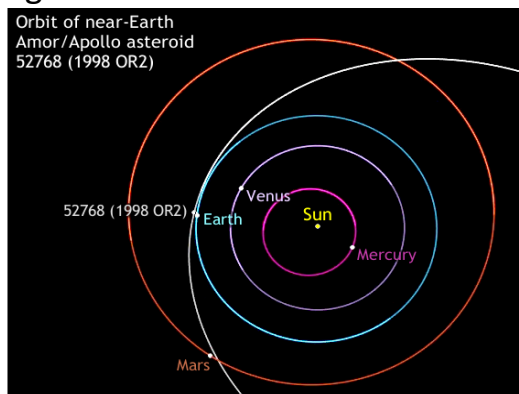
Also, please pray for all those who have died from the coronavirus.

NEWS OF THE COMET!

I referred to a new Comet in my Easter Sunday Sermon, which I said, "if the predictions are correct, it will become visible with the naked eye in the hours of darkness". A number of you expressed interest in this comet called Atlas. Sadly, as sometimes happens when comets start to get nearer to the sun, part

of the nucleus of Atlas has broken off, which has dramatically reduced its brightness!! 'Boo who' I say: I was really looking forward to seeing this. Since then an Asteroid has been detected which is coming near to the earth: no danger of it hitting earth, nor will we be able to see it with the naked eye, but I thought you might be interested in this piece of astronomical news!

If you're feeling a bit disappointed with the breakup of Comet ATLAS, console yourself by searching for a large near-Earth asteroid with the catchy official



name of 52768 (1998 OR2). It will pass just 16.4 lunar distances (6.3 million kilometres) from Earth at 10:56am BST on Wednesday, 29 April 2020. The asteroid is already visible in 6-inch aperture telescopes and larger, during moonless nights throughout April.

HATS for the MISSION to SEAFARERS!

Back to earth! Many thanks to those who have kindly offered to knit some hats for the Mission to Seafarers, to be given to those who work upon the seas: There are a selection of designs. If you know of anyone else who might like to do this work and you want me to send copies of the patterns on to them, please just let me know their address. I look forward to seeing the hats in due course!

SCAFFOLDING OUTSIDE THE CHURCH SOUTH TRANSEPT (COFFEE ROOM)

Thought you might like to know, that this was put up a few weeks ago, so that work could start on the repointing of the outside wall of the transept and the new roof go on, to make this damp part of the Church, dry. The day after it was all put up construction work was stopped across the island by the Government and so the work has not been able to start. With all this glorious weather, the contractors could have otherwise really 'cracked on' with the work! Such is life.

