



Join others in our parish and beyond on Sundays, from 10:30am (or at any other time that suits you) to worship God, in the comfort of your home.



God is good... all the time

Call to worship

I'm gonna sing, in the middle of the storm
 Louder and louder,
 you're gonna hear my praises roar.
 Up from the ashes, hope will arise.
 Death is defeated, the King is alive! *Bethel Music*

Prayer

When life is tough, Lord,
 grant us both strength
 and peace, in knowing
 you are there beside us
 in darkness and in light,
 never further away than
 a silent prayer is heard
 and arms reach out to hug.

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The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us
 our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us
 not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
 and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Walk to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dmmTWQn95xQ>

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. He asked, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?'

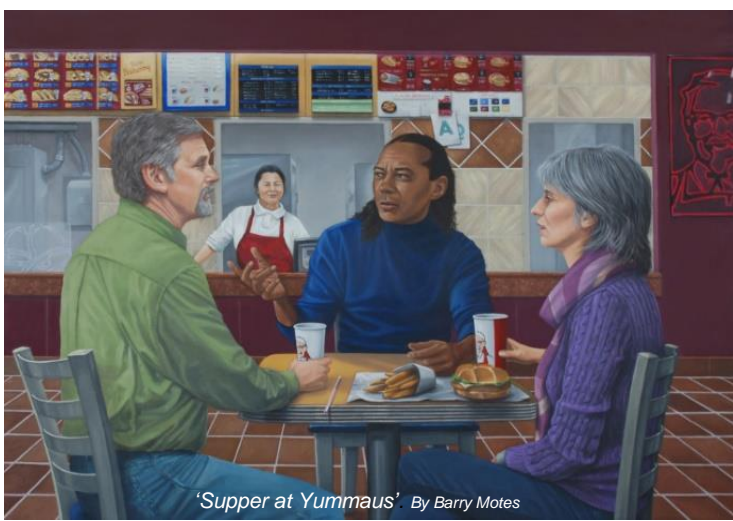
They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. 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. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, 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. 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.'

Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. 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.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. 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?'

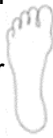
That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.



'Supper at Yummaus' By Barry Moses

Brief Reflection- 'Let's go for a walk'

A walk, talk and a meal can transform life. This is what happens to two disciples Jesus joins on a seven-mile walk from Jerusalem to Emmaus. Their world has just turned upside down by the events of the holy week. They also find resurrection just as unsettling as the crucifixion. It does not fit into their world view. They believe in the resurrection of all humanity at the end of time, but know little or nothing about the resurrection of an individual. Thankfully, a stranger joins them in their grief, confusion and questioning. As they walk, He unpacks the story of salvation through resurrection.



Somehow, they do not recognize the stranger. Confused and still grief stricken, the two disciples nevertheless reach out to Him. They invite Him to supper and come to know His identity in the breaking of the bread. He is, in fact, the risen Messiah, teacher and healer, Jesus Christ. After breaking bread with them, Jesus vanishes from their sight. But He leaves them with warmed hearts, lively spirits, and energetic bodies. They are so energized that they return to Jerusalem to share their good news with their friends that they have seen Jesus. He is alive and on the road. He has conquered sin, death and condemnation.



Jesus vanished from the sight of his friends. He may have needed to be on the move as well. God is not static. He is alive and on the move, doing new things and sharing new insights with us (at St Nicholas Church) and other pilgrims on the journey.



Lastly, we do not know where Emmaus is located. A few places (located seven miles from Jerusalem) have been suggested. They include; Nicopolis, Abu Ghosh, El-Qubeibeh and Colonia. But, as I said earlier, these are simply suggestions. Thankfully, in failing to localise Emmaus, we remain open to the possibility that Emmaus is somewhere, anywhere, everywhere. Wherever we are on the road or at every mealtime, Jesus comes to us, in power and with the joy of resurrection. He gives us hope, strength and new life in Him. He asks us to keep moving, to keep walking - because He is walking beside us on the road, Amen.

Prayer for others

Lord Jesus, when things happen that we find hard to deal with when our head goes down and our eyes see no further than our own feet, help us to be honest with you even if it's through tears or rage and ride the storm with us.

Help us to trust that You are there even when we cannot see or feel You close. Gently tilt our faces to look into Yours; to find there limitless compassion, endless understanding and (where necessary) patience and courage to begin again.

We bring to You those who carry forever in their hearts, the pain of losing a child... we bring to You those who have coped with the suicide of a loved one.... and all those who mourn... speak, O Lord, into each life, we pray. Bring strength and courage and to re-ignite the flame of hope, Amen.

Hymn: MP 16 - All my hope on God is founded

1. All my hope on God is founded
All my trust He shall renew
He my guide through changing order
Only good and only true
God unknown, He alone
Calls my heart to be His own
2. Pride of man and earthly glory
Sword and crown betray His trust
All that human toil can fashion
Tower and temple fall to dust
But God's power, Hour by hour
Is my temple and my tower
3. Day by day our mighty giver
Grants to us His gifts of love
In His will our souls find pleasure
Leading to our home above
Love shall stand, At His hand
Joy shall wait for His command
4. Still from man to God eternal
Sacrifice of praise be done
High above all praises praising
For the gift of Christ His Son
Hear Christ's call, One and all
We who follow shall not fall



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Final prayer/ benediction

Today we have walked and talked along the Emmaus road. We walk and talk each week with Christ by our side. Let Him walk with you this week, let Him speak to you and allow Him to open the door of your heart, so that you too meet the extraordinary in the ordinary. May you know God's hope, Christ's love and the Holy Spirit's energy this week and always, Amen.

*God is good ...
all the time...*