



Dear friends,

When I would share a meal with priest friends, (in the days before the Coronavirus), I would at times register a certain ignorance of an issue of which I should have been aware. My friends would humorously quote today's gospel: "You must be the only person living in Jerusalem.....!" I do miss the enjoyment of those meals where we could share a meal together and share our own personal journeys. Of course, we know, those days will return, but in the gospel of Luke today (Luke 24:13-35), the disciples shared this thought with a stranger as he accompanies them on the road to Emmaus. When the stranger enquires of the two disciples 'what things' of which he should have been aware, they tell him of the death of the Messiah, who was crucified, and who they thought would set his people free.

The despair and grief of the two disciples takes an unexpected turn when the story is retold by the stranger, who verifies the events of the Messiah's life, as foretold by the prophets: that, the Christ, should die and so enter into his glory. The journey takes an even more dramatic turn when the two disciples ask the stranger to dine with them. It is here at this moment, that they recognise the stranger to be Jesus as he breaks the bread before them.

The story of today's gospel of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus has great insights to share because, we, in today's gospel are those two disciples, who encounter Jesus on our journey through this life.

It is true that we encounter Jesus most especially in the breaking of the bread, at our Mass. And, that he is the 'bread of life,' which nourishes us along the way, and is our food for the journey. While we can't receive the Eucharist at this present time, we are united in prayer through the reading of Scripture, and our daily devotions.

These help sustain us until we can once again celebrate the real presence of our Lord together as His people.

But, not unlike the story of the two disciples, even when we feel despondent and lost on our journey, (which might be part of our present distancing from one another), Jesus is still there with us supporting us along the way. The town of Emmaus lies to the west of Jerusalem. The disciples' grief was leading them away from Jerusalem, where the sun rises in the east, and, where Jesus the true light of the world had risen from the dead. And finally, where the Church would emerge on Pentecost Sunday filled with the Holy Spirit.

We all await the return of a time, when our interrupted journey will once again focus on the community gathered around the table of the Lord to recognise his presence in our midst. It will also be the time to return and give thanks for the presence of the Lord, as we share bread amongst family and friends. It will also be a time to be reminded of: "You must be the only person living in Jerusalem.....!"

Easter blessings,

Fr Kelvin