

A BLESSING IN DISGUISE



It's still Easter and He is still risen!

Did you know that Easter isn't just one day? In the Catholic Church the Easter season lasts 8 whole weeks. That's 8 whole weeks celebrating Jesus risen from the dead. How could you continue the celebration this week?



WORD OF THE WEEK

Luke 24: 13-35

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles[a] from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" "What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus." He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Thank you Jesus, you give us hope even when all seems lost. We pray that we have faith in your presence with us even when times are difficult. Help us to look for the blessings in disguise and recognise you in the world around us, in the kindness of others, the smiles of strangers, the love of our family and friends and the beauty of nature. Help us to remember that you are still risen and there is always hope.

Amen.



HE IS RISEN

"Easter reminds us that hope should never be lost, for as dark as the road may seem, there always lies light at the end of it."



THERE IS A PLAN...

Sometimes we don't understand why things happen. But we know God is working and has a plan even if we can't see it or recognise it straight away.

Can you think of a time when you have experienced this, maybe when a parent or carer or teacher has told you to wait for something, or told you no to something? Maybe after a bit of time you can see that they had a plan all along, or had your best interests at heart.

Sometimes God also uses people around us, or events, to help us work out His ways.

We can keep an eye out for how He might be working, recognising Jesus in the blessings around us, in the hidden moments of joy that we might take for granted.

Take a moment in silence to think of a time when God might have used a person, event or situation to teach you something or to make something good happen in your life.

Something that makes you think "well if that hadn't have happened, then I wouldn't know or be where I am now." And maybe if you can't think of something like this but you can think of a situation you are struggling with at the moment and questioning where God is in it, ask God in prayer to reveal his plan and help you to trust in Him, praying for a blessing in disguise through this situation.



JESUS: PRESENT AT MASS

The disciples recognise Jesus when he broke the bread. What does it mean for us to recognise Jesus at Mass in the bread and wine? This is the ultimate blessing for us, we are told that the Mass is the source and summit of our Catholic faith, the most important celebration. This is because we have the actual presence of Jesus with us in the Eucharist, the bread and wine, at each Mass.

Why not come along to one of our Friday lunchtime Masses and see Jesus.



WATCH AND LISTEN

The Road to Emmaus: Encounter with Jesus
| One-Minute Homily ([CLICK HERE](#))

Better In His Presence- One Hope Project
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