



St James – A shining light in Petts Wood



ST JAMES THE GREAT

Briefly

Weekly Newsletter

14th April 2024

Third Sunday Of Easter



Fr David says...

Much less nowadays, after the death of my parents, I used to be walking along especially when I was home in Valletta, I would be certain that I had seen them in the crowd.

I remember running behind a person to see whether she or he was my father or mother. Obviously they never were. However there was always a moment of hope that it might be them. It speaks to me about how our psyche is effected by the death of a loved one. I remember being intrigued looking at programmes of mediums on TV. And those gave me comfort. Somehow they allowed you to believe that your loved one is around you still. And that is an amazing realisation for some who is in the process of grief. Knowing that your loved one is still around you. Close to you.

Huge events in our lives cause changes in the ways we see events, and they change the ways we see each other. Husbands see their wives quite differently after their first child is born, and wives likewise see their husbands in new ways.

Today's gospel account is about two disciples dejectedly walking from Jerusalem to a nearby hamlet called Emmaus and Jesus's appearance among them. The important thing in the story revolves around recognition of Jesus or lack of it. Here we find these two disciples at first failing to recognise Jesus and in the end, they recognise him. What happened? Why did they at first think he was a stranger and later come to realise who He really was? What seems to be controlling deals with the question of how we see one another. Obviously we are not talking here about simply seeing with our eyes, we are talking, rather about seeing with our hearts. We are dealing with seeing at a deeper levels of knowing and understanding.

The disciples walking on the road to Emmaus were talking about all the stupendous events that had occurred surrounding the crucifixion and death of Jesus. They were terribly upset because they had thought Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah that God had sent, and look what had happened. They were dazed and bewildered by it all, they were trying to make sense out of it all. They were so self engrossed because of their grief, that they could not see who the stranger was walking beside them. It is very easy during our times of grief to enter into our cocoon to make sense of what had happened to us and our loved one, and would not be able to see for some time what is under our own nose. We lose sight. We are in a surreal world. Jesus listened to them, listened to their dejected hearts. He then opened the scriptures to them to help them find some meaning and context of what had happened. Still they could not see him.

The Gospel account then takes us to the one thing that opened their eyes, the event that allowed them to make all the connections, the central piece in the puzzle that opened

their eyes. It was the breaking of the bread. The critical thing that occurred was when the stranger who was among them took bread, said the blessing, broke it and gave it to them to eat. Suddenly their eyes were opened and they recognised Him. They no longer saw Him with just their eyes, but they recognised Him with their hearts. They saw Him with their newly awakened faith. They recognized Him because they encountered Him in a totally different light. They saw Him now in that event wherein He promised to be with them always.

Knowledge is not based simply in the acquisition of facts, information and data. True knowledge is seeing things based on wisdom and understanding. Jesus comes to us in ways least expect. Why is it that a lot of us Christians when we take our journey faithfully, we speak that God comes to us in moments of surprise? We know of our moments of surprise, our own moments of wonder when suddenly we are aware of God's presence to us when out of the blue we hear what He is saying to us some times through circumstances and strangers. It is like being awakened after a long sleep.

When we find time to be mindful through Christian meditation or any other prayer regime we have, we tend to be more aware of God's presence in our lives. In our busyness of our lives and living in the noise that is hurled at us in our contemporary world through constant social media and our iPhones, it is very difficult to see the stranger as Christ. We need times to turn off the noise, quiet reflection even for some quarter of an hour a day, in need to tune to the heart of God. Then we would help ourselves to see Jesus and come into a deeper awareness of His presence to us.

May you and me have some time to make our own Emmaus Journey. And may we come to recognize Him not only in the breaking of the bread but in all those other moments where God tries to break in on our time and walk with us as we face all the stupendous events life hurls at us.

Knowing that Jesus walks with us in these moments gives us most certainly a feeling of we are not alone carrying this burden. Hopefully we will feel less overwhelmed.

God bless you all. Thank you for once again taking your time to read my reflection of this week.



All the Masses being said at St James' will be live streamed
<https://www.churchservices.tv/pettswood>
For the protection of all attend St James we request that you do not video live Masses using your phone during services.
 You can also take part in Adoration and Benediction by live stream.
 All events for live streaming are listed on the streaming site.

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Confessions will be heard in the church on Saturdays, 5.00-5.45pm,
 or by appointment.

Third Sunday of Easter Saturday 13th April	6:00pm Rev. Potter & Family (J Webb)
Sunday 14th April	09:15am Annie Kathleen Farrell RIP (E Froud) 11:00am Albert Holyomes RIP (E&G Rebello)
Feria Monday 15th April	10:00am Sheila O'Mahony RIP (O'Mahony Family)
Feria Tuesday 16th April	10:00am Thanksgiving - Christian Antao (Antao Family)
Feria Wednesday 17th April	10:00am Marjorie Phyllis Ingledew RIP (M Ingledew) 10.45am Eucharistic Adoration
Feria Thursday 18th April	10:00am Giuseppe Correnti RIP (M Ferretti & Family)
Feria Friday 19th April	No Mass from St James' Please note that St Edmund of Canterbury, Beckenham will be live streaming their Mass at 10:00am. Click here for direct link to St Edmund's: https://www.churchservices.tv/beckenham
Fourth Sunday Of Easter Saturday 20th April	06:00pm Anthony Olivelle RIP (Foundation Mass)
Sunday 21st April	09:15am People Of The Parish 11:00am Bianca Giese RIP (A Mulroy)

Second Collections

This weeks second collection is for the Parish Building Fund.
 Next weeks second collection is for The Priests Training Fund



The current needs for this week are for:

- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned cold meats
- Tinned hot meats
- Cooking Sauces
- Bleach

For more information go to: <https://bromleyborough.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>