

## In Touch across North Barrow

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>. April 2020**  
**The Third Sunday of Easter**

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### **Worship during the day, alone or with household members**

Jesus came and stood among the disciples, alleluia!  
Then they rejoiced when they saw the Lord, alleluia! alleluia!  
*John 20:19-20*

In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

#### ***Collect for today***

Risen Christ,  
you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:  
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life  
and fill us with your peace,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
Grant this Father, through him who is alive  
and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Readings** : Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35  
*or during the week from the daily prayer and readings.*

#### **The Gospel**

**24:** <sup>13</sup> On that same day, two of the disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup> but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup> 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?' <sup>19</sup> Jesus 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, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> 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 Jesus.' <sup>25</sup> Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' <sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. <sup>28</sup> As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Jesus; and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup> 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?' <sup>33</sup> That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup> They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

## **Prayers**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
we thank you that you have brought us safely  
to the beginning of this day.  
Keep us from falling into sin or running into danger;  
order us in all our doings and guide us to do always  
what is righteous in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Gracious God,  
give skill, sympathy and resilience  
to all who are caring for the sick,  
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.  
Strengthen them with your Spirit,  
that through their work many will be restored to health;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Conclusion**

We are raised to new life with Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## **Road to Emmaus**

We live in challenging and changing times, and don't we know it. Last week Clare started her placement at the Hospice. That evening I was volunteered to become her hairdresser. What they don't tell you is how hot and uncomfortable PPE is to use. 'Just cut it all off!' well not quite but a generous application of number 7 trim did the job. The mai complaint was that her fringe was too short - well I was never told to keep it, a number 7 is a number 7 I my limited book!

The disciples on the Emmaus road faced their own turbulent times. Their hopes had been dashed, certainties reduced to empty promises, and the future looked bleak at best. Luke tells this resurrection appearance not just to say what really happened that first Easter, but to point his readers to what happens as we meet with the Risen Christ.

**Jesus walks with us in our pain.** He is there even when we aren't aware. He listens to our troubles, shares our pain and uncertainty. He is present where ever two or three gather in his name, and I guess that we need to understand that virtually as well now. He is present with these two shattered disciples. He is present with us now. Whatever the future shape of our nation and world, Jesus is there with us when we gather together. *Where ever there are two or three gathered.* The base number for a synagogue was twelve adult men. In the new wine of the kingdom, Jesus teaches that the base number for the Christian community is two, not twelve. Two but never one.

**Jesus shows us the scriptures.** He opens the scriptures to us. In troubled times where do we look for help? The internet if full of fake news. Secular society can see no further then this life. If we want to find hope in Jesus, then look to his word. In the disciples dark confusion, Jesus opens their eyes to understand the scriptures and leaves a paradigm shift in theology between Jewish and Christian understanding of the prophecies about God's Messiah. Has Jesus opened your heart the receive the scriptures? Will you let Him? Are we ready to hear Jesus through the Word of God?

**Jesus feeds us with the living bread.** Jesus makes himself known in the breaking of bread. A simple act of blessing that transcends time and place and transforms uncertainty and fear. God offers us healing and peace if we both receive Jesus and stretch out our hands to receive from him. Once we recognise him in the breaking of the bread, there is no reason for him to be bodily present. He is there in our midst. In these troubled times we can hold to the promise of the fulfilment of God's rule and God's kingdom made present in the risen Christ and his people, and fulfilled at his return in glory. The resurrection proclaims that the future belongs to Christ, not Covid-19, whatever challenges the present may bring.

With love and prayers,

*Fr. Jack*

**Psalm 116:1-5, 10-17**

1 I love the Lord, for he has heard the voice of my supplication; because he inclined his ear to me on the day I called to him.

2 The snares of death encompassed me; the pains of hell took hold of me; by grief and sorrow was I held. 3 Then I called upon the name of the Lord: 'O Lord, I beg you, deliver my soul.'

4 Gracious is the Lord and righteous; our God is full of compassion. 5 The Lord watches over the simple; I was brought very low and he saved me.

10 How shall I repay the Lord for all the benefits he has given to me? 11 I will lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord.

12 I will fulfil my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people. 13 Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants.

14 O Lord, I am your servant, your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds. 15 I will offer to you a sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the Lord.

16 I will fulfil my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people, 17 In the courts of the house of the Lord, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Alleluia.

<b>SUNDAY</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>
<b>SATURDAY</b>
<b>Reflections during the week using Lectio Divina</b> <i>Use the verse, or verses, for each day following the pattern on the previous page. Each colour corresponds to a day of the week. Write any reflections, or ways in which you feel God is speaking to you in the boxes above</i>

## NEWS AND NOTES

**Support HUB** St Mary's Hospice and AgeUK Barrow have a support Hub at the Living Well Centre to offer advice and support to those who are self-isolation within the community (This is **NOT** for medical advice). **Support Hub** 9am - 5pm Mon to Fri. Call 01229 444407. **Drop off point** for food/ essentials to make up hampers Living well Centre, Duke Street, Barrow LA14 1XU

**Hospital Chaplaincy Hearts:** Debbie Wilde (FGH chaplain) has asked that folk from our churches knit, sew or crochet matching pairs of small hearts, one given to the patient and one to their family as a way of connecting them during their hospital stay. If anyone would like to help, then the hearts can come to Fr. Jack, Jennet (19 Carlton Ave LA13 5AT), or go straight to Debbie at the Chaplaincy department. For the knitters, there is a pattern available at <https://blog.createandcraft.tv/free-knitted-heart-pattern/> The hearts should be up to 3 inches or 8cm across at the widest point. If you can't access the pattern let me know and I will send one out.

**St JAMES ACCOUNTS :** Given current circumstances, Shelagh and Mark have been trying to find an examiner for the Church accounts for less than £750 + VAT. J F Hornby & Co have offered to do this for a nominal fee of £100. This makes good sense and is supported by the standing committee. As it is normally a decision for the APCM if there are any objections please let Fr. Jack know.

**HELPING OUT :** If you are aware of neighbours who are in need a being missed by the current system of support, please let Fr. Jack know so their needs can be met or passed on.

**Resources : The Sunday Worship** video is available on the St. James facebook page from Sunday morning.

**Radio and TV :** Radio Cumbria Morning Service at 8.00am  
CandoFM (106.3) Faith in Furness at 10.30am  
BBC Morning Worship at 10.15 on BBC1

For those who are online, the Church of England website has daily and Sunday resources to watch, download and join in with.

The website is : [churchofengland.org](http://churchofengland.org)

## DAILY PRAYER and BIBLE READINGS

- SUNDAY** *We give thanks that Jesus makes himself known in the breaking of bread and the shared meal.*
- MONDAY** Acts 6:8-15, John 6:22-29  
*Pray for our local businesses and leaders, especially for staff facing furlough or redundancy.*
- TUESDAY** Acts 7:51-8:1, John 6:30-35  
*Pray for those working to discover and trial the drugs, vaccines and antibody tests that will help us to overcome this virus.*
- WEDNESDAY** Acts 8:1-8, John 6:35-40  
*(St. Catherine of Sienna) Pray for all who in these challenging times seek to 'speak truth to power'.*
- THURSDAY** Acts 8:26-40, John 6:44-51  
*Pray for the staff of Furness General Hospital as they treat those suffering most from the virus.*
- FRIDAY** Acts 9:1-20, John 6:52-59  
*(St. Philip & James) Pray for those families finding it hard to occupy their children during the lock-down, especially for single parent families.*
- SATURDAY** Acts 9:31-42, John 6:60-69  
*(St. Athanasius) Pray for our bishops James and Emma, and for all seeking to reflect theologically on the present crisis.*

**If you have prayer requests / thanksgivings, then please let Fr. Jack know either by email or 'phone.**

### **NEXT SUNDAY**

### **THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Acts 2:42-47, 1 Peter 2:19-25, John 10:1-10