

Homily. Easter Vigil/Easter Sunday. 3-4th April 2021.

The tomb is empty. Jesus is not here. He is alive. He has risen as He said He would. So announced the Angel in the shining white robe to those few women and men who came to visit the grave that 1st Easter morning.

This is the Easter Good-News, the core of our faith, a hope and a promise sustaining us every day. He is risen in history and He will keep on rising throughout history until there is no more history to be told. He's alive and He will keep on coming alive in us as long as there are people in the world who have listened and believed in the words of God.

Because Jesus lives our reality has take on a new face. Unselfishness, generosity and sacrifice, suffering, sadness, death and even the grave itself no longer have the last word over our lives, nor the final say over the fate of humanity and of this world. We know this for certain because we're here; seeing, touching, listening to and feeling the Risen Lord within our community, alive, present and active in each another.

The Jesuit Priest and poet Gerard Manly Hopkins in his verse 'As kingfishers catch fire' put it this way;

The just man justices; He keeps grace; that keeps all of his goings
graces; Acts in God's eye what in God's eye he is— Christ— for Christ
plays in ten thousand places, Lovely in limbs, and lovely in eyes not his,
To the Father through the features of our faces.

When the disciples asked where that they could all meet the Risen Lord they were told to go back to Galilee, for it was there that they would see

Him, in the ordinary, the normal, the everyday. In his own wonderful way Hopkins makes this point. We will encounter the Lord Jesus living in one another; in our families, our places of study and work and play, in our friendship groups, in our Parish community and in the scriptures and sacraments of our Church. He is always at play, says the poet, through the eyes and features of our faces. It's here, in each another that we will see Him, rising again in history and always coming alive in us until time is no more. Now we live for God in Christ Jesus, the ever-living Lord.

On Good Friday I said to you that our joyful Hosanna's and the palm of triumph must pass through the wood of the Cross, for the palm and the Cross are inseparable. Easter proclaims something more, something greater. It says that our Hosanna's have been uplifted, turning into our Alleluia's, endless shouts and songs of praise from the whole of creation.

A new day and a new way has dawned upon us. The breaking light of this day can never be overcome because the Light of the World rules, lives and rises forever in us. The love of the Lord for us has no end, said the Psalmist, so on this Easter Day, which is everyday for God's faithful Easter people, let us really and truly rejoice and be glad.