

Homily. Easter Vigil/Easter Sunday. Year. C. 16-17 April 2022.

On Palm Sunday I said that with we were like pilgrims arriving after a 6 week long voyage, wading ashore onto a beach that was Holy Week. Well, tonight/today our feet have moved off those wet sands, and now at the centre of our island, we find ourselves resting on solid rock; and the name of this rock is the resurrection of Christ our Lord.

Here, at last, we can stand up straight and tall, bathing in the hope and joy that has been born from out of the waters, from a tomb turned into a womb that has given life of the everlasting kind. Our Easter celebrations; our fire in the night, the words of our salvation stories, our witness to and sharing in the Easter sacraments; all of these tell us that Christ lives, that our rock is firm, that our journey hasn't been in vain and that our faith is trustworthy and true.

Those who are Baptised, Confirmed and will join us for the first time at the Lord's table tonight/over these days, give us joy in their new birth. They reassure us that the light of God's Spirit is still overcoming the darkness within us and around us. They deepen our faith, helping us to grip more tightly onto the rock of the Risen Lord. Yet, even now as Easter dawns, we know that our travels haven't ended. We must go onwards, and we can do so safely since our stage rock of will go with us.

To this point, in one of His letters St. Paul speaks of the rock that travelled with Moses and God's people on their desert journey's. This rock flowed with God's life giving waters, and Paul said that this rock was Christ.

The Lord was there with them even before they knew Him. In the days and weeks ahead, come what may, this rock will walk with us, too, offering us refreshment and stability in our thirsty, unstable world.

It's our privilege to be here tonight/today and to come back as often as we can, freely drinking in the life that our Lord offers. It isn't our purpose to stay here forever though, like some statue perched on a plinth, but to go from this place back into the world beyond these doors, back to our families, friends and acquaintances. Our mission is to be the Mary's, Joanna's and Peter's of our age, running like they did in Luke's gospel to the tomb that's become the womb of the world, and then back home again, taking with us the good news that we've heard, seen and tasted.

This is how we become an Easter people in action, always being renewed by the source of Christ's Spirit with us, on fire with His love and peace, offering to others without cost the gifts we've been given. We are like an Alleluia on legs, praising God with the voice, hands and heart of Christ Himself, to help and heal all who are still hurting and hiding, still waiting patiently in the darkness of their graves for Easter to dawn on them.