

**Diocese of Wangaratta**  
Holy Trinity Benalla, St Aidan's Swanpool, St Paul's Goorambat  
27th April 2020  
**Third Sunday of Easter**

***Reverend Maryann Leonard***  
***P.O. Box 250 Benalla 3672***  
***parishpriestbenalla@gmail.com***  
***0439 066 553***



This intriguing image *Road to Emmaus* is by Adam Howie. Note the different shadows created by each of the figures: a cross, a question mark, an exclamation mark.  
([www.redbubble.com/people/lurchkimded/collections/1106-spiritual-and-religious](http://www.redbubble.com/people/lurchkimded/collections/1106-spiritual-and-religious))

Christ is risen. Alleluia.

**He is is risen indeed Alleluia**

We are the body of the risen Christ.

**His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

## SENTENCE

Repent, and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

*Acts 2.38–39.*

## THE COLLECT

Let us pray. O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, he who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING

**Acts 2.14a, 36-41**

[Peter continues his sermon on the Day of Pentecost and encourages his hearers to believe in Jesus as Messiah, to repent and to receive God's Spirit, and 3000 people respond.]

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles*

Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: 'Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. 'Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.' When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?' Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.' With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. *Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. Thanks be to God.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Psalm 116.1-4,11-18**

[A psalm of praise, thanksgiving and commitment in response to God's gracious rescue.]

**Response: I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living, the land of the living.**

I love the Lord, because he heard the voice of my supplication;  
Because he inclined his ear to me: in the day that I called to him.  
The cords of death encompassed me,  
the snares of the grave took hold on me:  
I was in anguish and sorrow./R

Then I called upon the name of the Lord:  
'O Lord, I beseech you, deliver me !'  
How shall I repay the Lord: for all his benefits to me?  
I will take up the cup of salvation:  
and call upon the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord: in the presence of all his people./R

Grievous in the sight of the Lord: is the death of his faithful ones.

O Lord, I am your servant,

your servant and the child of your handmaid:

you have unloosed my bonds.

I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving:

and call upon the name of the Lord./R

I will pay my vows to the Lord: in the presence of all his people,

In the courts of the house of the Lord:

even in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord./R

## SECOND READING

1 Peter 1.13-25

[Because God, through raising Christ from death, has led God's people to eternal life, we should love one another.]

*A reading from the first letter of Peter*

Peter writes, "Those of you, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.' Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For, 'All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord endures for ever.' And this is the word that was preached to you." *Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.* **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Our hearts | burn within us

while you open to | us the scriptures.

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

[Jesus appears to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, who invite him to stay the night with them. They share a meal and, as Jesus breaks the bread, they recognise him.]

*A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke*

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

Now on that same day two of the disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. 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?' He 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, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. 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. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, 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. 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 him.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. 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. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. 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?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread. *For the Gospel of the Lord.* **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia x 3**



## THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Risen Lord, we also keep company with the travelers on the Emmaus Road who felt the strange burning of the truth and hope and love weaving into the sadness that consumed them on their walk; we too find ourselves in the eternal movement between fear and faith, doubt and conviction, wonder and worry, and we trust your presence to be with us as our guide. *Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.*

Risen Lord, when you broke the bread the disciples knew you; we pray for all who are hungry or starving throughout the world; for all suffering famine in East Africa; bless all who work to provide food for people everywhere, and lead all those who are given the responsibility to distribute food to do so honestly and fairly; we thank you for blessing us with your bountiful goodness, and help us all to share willingly of all which you have first given to us. *Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.*

Risen Lord, you came giving your peace so that your people may be free; we pray for all suffering the atrocities of war and violence, for those fleeing in desperation, for refugees and asylum seekers and those trapped by situation and circumstance; for those abused and trafficked and all who struggle to keep their children safe; we pray especially for the peoples of your world grappling with COVID 19. *Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.*

Risen Lord, as you opened the scriptures to your companions on the road, we pray for those who hunger for understanding; bless and sustain all who reveal your word; for your Church and all pastors and preachers, priests and bishops; for Clarence our Bishop and our parish. May we be open and welcoming to new leadership and possibilities. *Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.*

Risen Lord, bless and be present to all people in need, for those living with anxiety and fear, the homeless and the unemployed; hear our prayer for the sick and the dying; for all in need and those who have requested prayer; we pray for all who are impacted by COVID 19 and for those caring for them; we give thanks for healing and blessings wherever received. *Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.*

Holy One, in the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, you swallowed up death for ever, and opened up the way for all people to sit with you at the feast of eternal life; we pray for the recently departed and those whose years mind occurs at this time.

Rest eternal grant to them O Lord: **And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

*Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.*

Elusive Lord, our companion on the way, you walk behind, beside, beyond; you catch us unawares; break through the disillusionment and despair that can cloud

our vision; hear us as we pray for ourselves .....; so that with wide-eyed wonder, we too may find our way and journey on as messengers of your good news.

*Lord in your mercy:* **Hear our prayer.**



The Emmaus Road is a compelling story. It is a curious way for Jesus to reveal himself to these two disciples, but it is also a moment that called them to a response. It is all too easy for faith to become an academic exercise or a “thing we do” on Sundays which has little connection with everyday life. But if the resurrection is to be known and lived, we cannot just have ideas about it. We must respond to it – not just once, as to a once-off event, but in every moment, as to something that is a constant reality in the universe. It is this challenge that makes this week of the Easter Season both meaningful and pregnant with possibility. God’s life and grace, and the gift of resurrection, are wonderful things to know about, but they mean very little in real terms without a response from us. While God’s grace and love are always available, it is as we respond that we are able to appropriate and benefit from them. The power of Peter’s sermon was only realised by his hearers when they responded to what he had said. The psalmist recognises that God’s gracious rescue is made real when he (the psalmist) responds with gratitude, praise and commitment. Peter invites the believers who have come to faith in Christ and received God’s life to respond by living lives of love toward one another, which of course, is how God’s life is experienced. Finally, the two disciples on the Emmaus Road have heard about Jesus’ resurrection, but it is only when they recognise him at the meal as he breaks bread that the reality of the resurrection hits home to them and they experience it for themselves. It is not that God needs our response in order to love us, forgive us, or save us, but that for us to know, experience and live out of the life and grace of God, we need to appropriate what God has given us and respond to the realities that we encounter. This call for response is a powerful and hopeful part of the Gospel we preach, and is the gift we are invited to share in worship this week. *Adapted from John van de Laar (2017).*

© Sacredise - [www.sacredise.com](http://www.sacredise.com)



## **Rev’s Review**

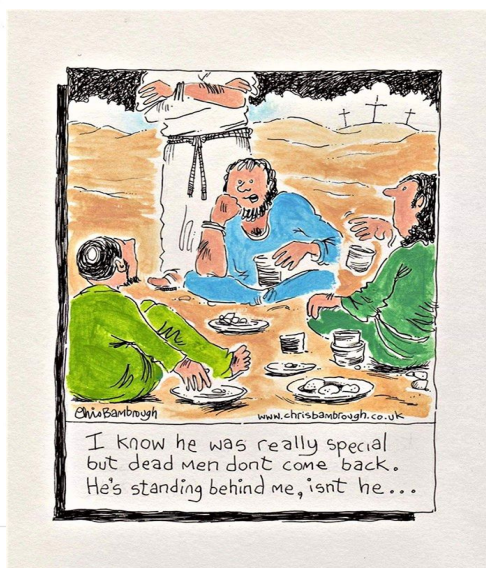
Well we finally made it! John and I are here at last! Thank you to everyone who prepared ye the way. It is very much appreciated. There is

much to do ministry wise and all things parish. It will be absolutely fabulous to meet you when this CORONA19 is behind us.

Don't worry, I am working hard, making contacts, ensuring all parishioners can be part of a service somehow if they wish. I will be recording Morning Prayer for Sundays. It will be uploaded on the parishes Facebook page. Should be up by 11am Sundays.

Feel free to email, text or call me if you would like to introduce yourself. Please contact me with any questions you may have. I love all genres of music and a very quirky sense of humour.

You will often hear me referring to; 'Be the face of God.' We all have a responsibility as Christians to allow ourselves to be the ones of faith whenever we meet someone. Now that doesn't mean we stand up in the street and preach.....it means we are ourselves. The best example of 'going in peace to love and serve the Lord.'





Good morning,

As you got up I watched and hoped you would talk to me. Just a few words, such as thanking me for something good in your life yesterday or last week would do. But I noticed you were busy selecting the right clothes for work.

I waited again to hear from you. When you ran around the house collecting papers, I knew there would be a few minutes to stop and say hello, but you never slowed down.

I wanted to tell you that I could help you accomplish more than you ever dreamed possible if you would just spend some of each day with me. At one point, you waited fifteen minutes in a chair with nothing to do. I waited to hear from you.

Then I saw you spring to your feet; I thought you wanted to talk to me, but you ran to the phone and called a friend. I watched as off to work you went and waited patiently all day long to hear from you. With all your activities you were too busy to talk with me.

I noticed at lunch you looked around; maybe you just felt embarrassed to talk to me. You glanced three tables over and noticed some of your friends talking to me before they ate, but you wouldn't.

There was still more time left, and I hoped that we would talk. You went home and had many things to do. After they were done, you turned on the TV; just about anything goes there and you spend many hours watching. I waited as you continued watching TV and ate your meal but again you wouldn't talk to me.

At bedtime you were totally tired. After you said good night to your family you plopped into bed and fell asleep. I had so much wanted to be part of your day. We could have had so much fun and accomplished so much together.

I love you so much that I wait every day for a thought, prayer or thanks. Well, maybe tomorrow! I'll be waiting.

Your Friend, God.



---