



Homily for the Third Sunday of Easter, Year A

By Fr Michael Gathuku

The story of the disciples going to Enmaus which we here in today's Gospel reading is one of the favourite stories in the New Testament. This story is about everyday ordinary life, life discoveries and disappointment.

In today's Gospel, two Disciples who are struggling to make sense of recent events which have happened in Jerusalem - the death of Jesus, and the news of his resurrection - leave Jerusalem.

A stranger joins them on the road. They tell the story of their disappointment, "Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free" they said.

In their story, it was clear that they cannot comprehend, their hope in Jesus and His death. This encounter of Jesus with the two Disciples is similar to our encounter with Our Lord, in the Eucharist.

When they had finished their story, Jesus began His. Jesus' story was so appealing that they didn't want Him to leave, they requested Him to stay with them. He invited them to look at the past again, this time in the light of the Scriptures. He gave them a whole different interpretation of the same event. According to the stranger, the death of Jesus was an achievement of His mission, not the failure.

As the stranger helps the two disciples to make sense of the past in a new light, they respond by inviting Him to stay with them. The stranger broke the bread and gave it to the Disciples and their eyes were opened. The stranger did not only help them to interpret the past in their new experience of Him as Lord, but also gave them a new future.

They went back to Jerusalem which they were running from and shared their story with the others - their new discovery and hope. In their experience of Jesus as Lord, the Disciples' past is changed. They were able to revisit the past with new light and hope. They took the darkness of Good Friday to the light of Easter Sunday. For them, one conclusion was enough, namely - Jesus Christ is truly risen. That is the message they took back to Jerusalem.

Our celebration of The Eucharist brings Jesus to us not as a stranger but, rather, in word and sacrament and he gives us hope to face the future with faith in Him.

Currently, we are not gathering at our usual places of worship due to the Coronavirus pandemic, but let us not make a mistake by forgetting that Jesus is with us. He is walking with us and, like the Disciples, He wants to instil hope in us.

Like the Disciples, we are invited to tell our own story - the story covered with disappointment and anger, displeasure and distress. Our past and present may not make sense to us, but Jesus' word is clear in this moment as always - "I do care what you are going through" and I am walking with you.

Today, we're invited to tell our story to the Lord, to listen to Him even in the comfort of our homes and recognise Him in all that is happening. Only then can we look with understanding at the past and with hope, look to the future.

As a community of believers, we should always be focussed on the light at the end of the tunnel. May Mother Mary intercede and pray for us her children.

Happy Sunday everyone.

just want to do God's will and he has allowed me to go up to the mountain. I have looked over and I have seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the Promised Land."

This should be our approach as we build our hope in God during this calamity now facing the world. Jesus came into this world to conquer death, all people are born into this world to live, but Jesus came into this world to die; his death was not a passive resignation, but an active embrace of it in order to conquer it.

Today, we recall the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and hear again the story of the Passion. Why should we remember the pain and suffering of Jesus? "Whenever you do this, do it in memory of me." When a community decides to remember suffering, their memory becomes a remonstrance and they ask themselves what is our contribution to this? That is why the memory of suffering is dangerous. In recalling the suffering of the victim, there is a remonstrance that this is not to be repeated again. There should be no innocent victims.

The memory also serves to make us aware of the crosses that are in our midst - the dead, the sick and those affected by the sick. The memory of Jesus' Passion instructs us to pay attention to the suffering of others and our own. The Cross demands that attention should be paid.

So, today, as we pay attention to the suffering of Jesus, let us pay attention too to all who are victims of Coronavirus. May Almighty God come to our assistance and see us through this pandemic.

May Mother Mary walk with us in this valley of darkness which we are experiencing at this time.