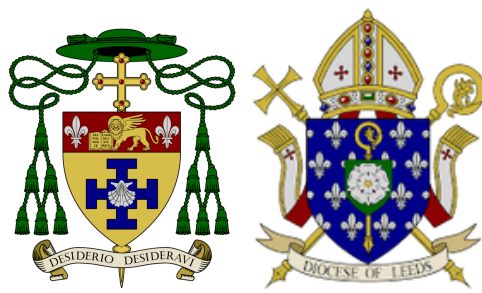


Tomb to Mission

A journey from Easter to Pentecost



THIRD SUNDAY

Their eyes were opened and they recognised him.

Luke 24:31

“Did our hearts not burn?”

The Emmaus story is one of grief and lost hope, of misunderstanding and blindness, and of the gentle way Jesus restores hope, understanding, and vision. With so many layers, it's tempting to think we already know this story well. But, as with all Scripture, there is always more: more to discover, more to receive, more to see. What we need are new eyes to recognise what is right before us. And that, above all, is the heart of this Gospel.

Two disciples leave Jerusalem because their hope has died. They are going home, carrying disappointment, confusion, and sorrow. Along the way they meet a stranger who listens, teaches, and slowly rekindles their hope. Yet they do not recognise Him. It is only when they sit down at table, when He breaks bread, that their eyes are opened. The stranger is Jesus: alive, risen, present.

Why does this matter? Not only because Jesus is risen, though that is the foundation of everything. It matters because He teaches them to understand the Scriptures anew. And in that moment of recognition they can say, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened the Scriptures to us?” The Scriptures, Old and New Testament, are not relics of the past. They are God's living Word, given so that our hearts might burn within us too. But is that how we experience them? As Catholics, we are called not only to hear Scripture proclaimed at Mass but to read it ourselves, to pray with it, to let it speak into our lives today.

The disciples on the road saw the Scriptures were simply stories about the past. Jesus showed them that the Word is alive, and that it speaks directly into the present moment. Just as the Eucharistic bread opened their eyes to recognise Jesus, so the Word of God feeds, strengthens, and transforms us. We need both, because both are food for our journey. We too should be able to say, with those disciples, “Did not our hearts burn within us?” Because unless we are nourished by Word and by Sacrament we cannot do God's work in the world. We cannot love as Jesus loved, nor serve as He served. Only hearts set on fire can carry His light.

#GospelReflection