



Longer Tables, Lower Fences - Reflections for Lent 2019

Week 7 – 21st April

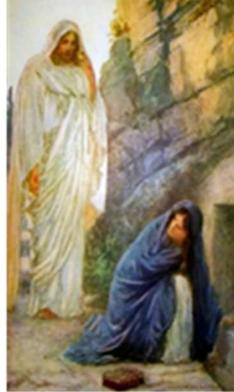
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Rejoicing

Easter Day is here! The season of Lent has gradually prepared us for this amazing day as we have reflected on the life of our Lord and how He set his face to go to Jerusalem knowing what would happen. We have recalled His agonising death and the great sadness of His friends and disciples. On that first Easter morning the unimaginable happened and their beloved Lord overcame death.

When I read the various Bible accounts of that first Easter Day my heart rejoices but the passage I love the most is Mary's encounter with Jesus. Such a contrast from abject sadness to overwhelming joy. I marvel at the way Jesus calls each one of us by name and knows us intimately. Mary's reaction after her delight at seeing Jesus was to follow His instruction to return to the disciples. Mary obeys and the good news spreads.

As I reflect on this account I am challenged to reach out to others with the good news of our Lord's triumph over death and demonstrate his all-embracing love. Sometime ago an opportunity arose when having a haircut. My hairdresser said she knew of someone getting in touch with their dead partner. She asked if I had ever had a message from a dead relative. I said that I hadn't but that I did believe in an afterlife because Easter is all about the joy of Jesus overcoming death. On a different level people from our local Mosque recently met at my church to talk about our faith and understanding of God. It was most enlightening to discover how much we shared in common and good to have the opportunity to talk about our faith in Jesus.



To ponder: How can the Easter message of love and joy be more effectively spread where you live?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you for the wonderful way that you meet with each one of us individually, just as you met Mary weeping in the garden. May the recognition of your risen presence now fill each of us with joy that overflows to those we shall meet today and in the future. Amen.

Bible link: John 20: 15-17 *'She glanced over her shoulder and saw someone standing behind her. It was Jesus but she did not recognise him. "Why are you crying", he asked her, "whom are you looking for?" "Sir", she said, "if you have taken him away tell me where you have put him." "Mary", Jesus said. She turned towards him, "Master", she exclaimed.'*

Hymn: Singing the Faith 313 *Thine be the glory v.2 'Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb, lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and gloom.'*