

I couldn't let the opportunity pass to wish you a Happy Easter!
To remember our Easter shout: Christ is risen! – He is risen indeed!



And to write a few relevant words about our Lord. I was able to consider the journey Jesus took over this last week, starting with the crowds welcoming him to Jerusalem; the last supper; and then the betrayal, the arrest, the sham trial under Caiaphas, the beating and mocking of the soldiers, and then Pilate washing his hands of Jesus, and handing him over to be

crucified. Then he started his painful walk carrying the heavy cross, until he reached the place called 'The Skull', where he was nailed to the cross.

Now he could no longer move. The arms that had healed, that had touched the untouchables and blessed the children, were now unable to move. The feet that had walked the length and breadth of the country, as he preached and taught about the love of God and his plan for humankind, were unable to walk again.

How did this boy who had visited the temple at the age of 12, come to be in this situation? As a child he would have heard his mother's stories of his birth, the escape to Egypt, their move to Nazareth; he would have attended the synagogue where the scriptures were read every week. At the age of 12, which was the entry to adulthood, he was expected to read the Scriptures there. He learned to love God and love his neighbour, and to walk humbly and generously. And there in the scriptures were the prophecies about the Messiah, how he would suffer and be killed, even the manner of his death – that he would be pierced; and that this suffering and death would bring glory to God, and release, to not only Israel, but to the whole world.

We hear nothing about him until he was 30 years old, though certainly he continued his study of the Scriptures and his habit of prayer. He had grown in understanding that the Scriptures were referring to him; that he was the Messiah who was to come into the world.

So many of us are carrying a heavy cross now, with relatives ill in hospital or care homes, many people isolated and alone. Not able to move much, fixed in one place; needing others to shop and collect medicines for us. Those on ventilators not able to move at all. And on top of that the terrible news of thousands affected and thousands have died.

It's enough to shake our faith. But Jesus, in that time of terrible brutality, was willing to commit himself to God's care, knowing the prophesy that he would rise again on the 3rd day. All he could do, was to rely on God's care.

In our time of challenge, we have seen an outpouring of loving neighbourliness and concern for others, and of heroic giving of service in hospitals, care homes, supermarkets and factories. These people need our prayers as they continue this great commitment.

In Jesus' humility and love, he gave himself for each of us, that we might also know, that God has committed himself to us, to be with us through whatever situation we have to go through, and to know the certain hope we will come out the other side. Christ has promised that we will never leave us or forsake us.

He has promised
resurrection – on earth and
in heaven.

We will soon be together
again in church, and what
a celebration that will be!

And to those who will die,
he offers the certain hope
of being with him in
Paradise, an eternity to
spend with the living God,
and his dear Son Jesus
Christ, in the joy of the
Holy Spirit.

May you have the joy of
Easter,

the fruit of love and
humility,

And the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be with you now and
always,
Amen

