

Homily

16<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Easter Sunday

When I reflected on this morning's Gospel, I was reminded of the story of three people looking at the same sunset.

The first person saw the immense physical beauty and enjoyed the event for what it was. These people are called sensates - the bulk of us are like this - we just deal with what we can see feel and touch. This can be enough reality for us, and we are content with that experience.

The second person was a scientist. All three people enjoyed the sunset, but this person was able to explain what made it so beautiful. He'd studied weather conditions - he was a meteorologist - he knew what conditions were needed to produce such a beautiful effect.

The third person, enjoyed the beautiful sunset like the first person and he understood it like the second person. But this person was able to progress from seeing and explaining scientifically to 'tasting' the experience - to be in awe of an underlying mystery, regardless of human knowledge. And this, I believe is how the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, encountered the empty tomb - he saw and he believed. Others had seen the empty tomb and maybe struggled with the knowledge of it, but he saw beyond the emptiness and experienced the mystery of the Resurrection.

When I came across this story I became aware of the concept of the third eye, and it's this third eye we need to develop. The first eye is experience, the second is knowledge, and the third eye is faith. John the Gospel writer uses the third eye of faith, but he also puts his message into the form of a play - we are invited to put ourselves into the person of the beloved disciple, he is you and me. In other words, we are invited to look into the tomb. Do you see an experience? Do you try to rationalise it through human knowledge, or do you have the third eye of faith - to see and believe? If you see the deeper reality of the empty tomb, and you are there looking at the emptiness, but see the deeper reality and believe - this is the most precious gift of faith!

And for us today, on this most wonderful day, as St Paul sums up so well, we are invited to come away from the empty tomb, and yes the emptiness and death in our own lives, and adore and embrace life in all its fullness. The grace of our Baptism leads us out of death, and into the promise of real life here and now, and yes, into the promise of life everlasting!

And you know, I don't care what anyone says - the Christian Faith is the only show in town! I challenge you to delve into any religion or 'spiritual path' you like. You can look into all their pseudo sacred writings and so called scriptures and you will NEVER FIND ANYTHING to match the power and teachings of Jesus Christ in the Gospels - no matter what wisdom they may contain - and nothing there to match the real and profound lived experiences of Christ - true God and true Man, which the disciples reveal to us in their Epistles. They saw, experienced, and believed. With the third eye of faith, we too, can, and will believe in the Resurrection of Christ, and the new and everlasting life offered to us today and every day through Our Lord Jesus Christ.

A HAPPY AND BLESSED EASTER TO YOU ALL!!!