

Readings Acts 1: 1-11; Ephesians 1: 17-23; Luke 24: 46-53;



Fr Michael says:

Christ works in us and through us!

The Community is in crisis! The sense of loss and whither now is uppermost in their minds and hearts! Jesus is leaving them in human form, but will be with IN them! What does this mean? What does He expect us to do? Saying “farewell” is traumatic – we are being invited to launch out into the unknown: what have we learnt in the past which will help us with this task? Our Confirmation Candidates are in this situation now; think back to when you left home for a new career, university, to get married – how did you feel? How ready were you?

Let us recall the words of Paul to the Church of God at Ephesus, which we have just heard: “May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of Him. May your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to His call, what are the riches of glory in His inheritance among the holy ones and what is the surpassing greatness of His power for us who believe.” We are invited to take responsibility with confidence, for how we are going to be witnesses to the Resurrection in the lives that we lead: the Spirit is promised! How can we do this?

First of all by WORD: we profess our Faith – by explaining and defending it when necessary. Then by DEED: James Thoreau puts it like this: “Never recommend anything, unless you can provide a sample of it.” We need the fruit of what we say to be our witness. Then by our LIFE: It is by deeds and not words that the Gospel is shared. It is also important to stress that, we, who despite our limitations, live simple lives of service and openness to God and the truths which are beyond this world, our concern for others, the weak, the poor etc, through our concern for peace, justice and human rights are doing exactly the same thing – in our own way!

Lastly, by our DEATH: this is not granted to all or asked of everyone, but there is an important witness here too! It is the means by which we attain our ultimate destiny and is in many ways the most important moment in our lives however our main way is - the witness of daily life, for which we need toughness, strength and courage!

The day of the Lord’s triumphant return to His Father is not a day for narrowness or sadness.

Rather it is a day for openness and joy. Therefore let us lift up our hearts!

Let us raise up our minds...let our spirits soar and be free!

For sin and evil and death have been overcome – we know nothing of the mystery beyond.

All we have is His word: “Where I am, you too will be.”

Lord, you have kindled in our hearts the hope of eternal life – guard this hope with your grace

And bring it to fulfilment in the Kingdom of Heaven.

In the words of Fr Vincent Dwyer: “May you lift your own sails, pull up the anchors and let the Holy Spirit guide your course through the exciting adventure of life that leads to the Father! The winds of God’s grace are always blowing, we need only make the effort to lift up our sails!”