

Third Sunday of Easter

Christ's witnesses

INTRODUCTION

Jesus told his apostles to go out and tell the world that he had died and risen to new life.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Read these words (*cf Revelation 22:5*):

The time is coming when there will be no night, and no-one will need lamps or the light from the sun, because the Lord God will be our light for evermore.

SORRY

In a moment of silence let us ask for God's forgiveness for all the times when we have offended others by our words or actions. Sing together Sorry Song 2

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 1: *Share your word with us.*

GOSPEL (*cf Luke 24:36-48*)

The disciples who had met Jesus on the road to Emmaus, were telling the others what had happened, when suddenly Jesus appeared amongst them. At first they were terrified, because they thought that they had seen a ghost! Then Jesus said to them, 'Peace be with you', and seeing that they were still scared, he added, 'Do not be afraid. Why do you doubt what you can see? Please, look at my wounds and see that I am not a ghost. Touch me, a ghost has no flesh or bones as I have!' They were overjoyed but still filled with disbelief. Then Jesus asked them for something to eat and they watched as he ate some grilled fish.

Then he began to explain the scriptures to them, so that finally, they understood what scripture had said about the Messiah suffering and rising after three days. Jesus said to them 'You are my witnesses because you have seen all these things happen.'

DISCUSSION

How would you feel if you saw a ghost?

How did Jesus calm and reassure his terrified disciples? – He appeared saying the words, 'Peace be with you,' and told them not to be afraid. Then he showed them his wounds to convince them that he really had risen from the dead.

Even after showing the disciples his wounds *did* they really believe what they were seeing?

Although they were overjoyed to see Jesus again, they were totally dumbfounded to find that he was really alive, so Jesus ate a piece of fish to convince them that he was real and not a ghost!

Jesus told the disciples that they were his *witnesses*. What did he mean? – The disciples had seen and heard for themselves all the marvellous things that Jesus had done. He would send them out to give evidence or proof of this by the way they lived, the miracles they would perform in his name, and the things they would teach.

Can we be witnesses for Christ? – Jesus said, 'Blessed are those who have not seen and yet *believe*.' We may not have seen all these things with our own eyes but we believe. Each of us can be a witness for Christ by living God's way, as Jesus showed us. When we become members of the Christian family we are called to follow Christ and be a witness for him every day of our lives.

ACTIVITY

On a large sheet of paper draw a representative map of the world (it does not need to be accurate!) or if available, use a large map of the world. Photocopy the various modes of transport that the apostles might have used. After colouring, help the children to add them to the map, with large red arrows pointing in various directions. Add the caption, 'Witnesses to the world.'

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus,
send us your Spirit
to give us the strength
to live as you taught us.
Help us to bear witness to you
by our actions and our words.