

## Reflection for Easter Monday 2020

Rather than get caught up in the sub-plot among the Jews, let us focus on the words of Jesus to the women. It is significant that Jesus appeared to the women and spoke to them first before any encounter with the apostles and other disciples. Jesus says *'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers that they must leave for Galilee; they will see me there.'* Since his disciples came from Galilee, it was tantamount to them being told to GO HOME! You will find me there. Jesus so often turned things upside down. Water into wine - blindness into sight - deafness into hearing - dumbness into speaking; and best of all, Death into Life. All of these are Resurrection experiences in their own way. The current pandemic has forced us into staying at home – a hardship because movement and contact with others is extremely limited – but, as usual, Jesus grabs this hardship by the neck and transforms it into life. He tells us clearly today that I am with you in your Homes, in your families, and present among you in my resurrected life. I am truly there with you. I eat with you. I share life with you. I celebrate your joys with you; carry your burdens, your illnesses and your worries with you. I do this because you are mine and I love you. Let us welcome this presence of the Risen Christ and say, (sing if you can), with the psalmist: *"My heart rejoices, my soul is glad; for my body shall rest in safety. For you, Lord, will not leave my soul among the dead, nor let your beloved know decay."* If, or when, life becomes even more challenging and difficulties increase, then turn to King David and make his prayer, from the first reading, your own: *The Lord stands before me always and with him at my right hand nothing can shake me – nothing can shake me. My heart was glad and I cry out with joy. My body will rest in the hope that you will not abandon me nor allow me to experience corruption. You have shown me the way of life and you will fill me with gladness through your presence."* For the living, risen Christ is present with you individually and together. The Risen Christ unites us across untold distances with a unity that walls, houses, even oceans, cannot hinder, hide or prevent. The Risen Christ is both **love** and **hope** in its purest form and he lives with us. The same Christ who died for me and for you and for us all, and who rose victoriously from the dead. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let me remind you once again of this quote from Pope Francis: *I have a dogmatic certainty: God is in every person's life. God is in everyone's life. Even if the life of a person has been a disaster, even if it is destroyed by vices, drugs or anything else - God is in this person's life. You can - you must - try to seek God in every human life.*

### **End Note**

A little girl asks a little boy, "Are you a Presbyterian?" And the boy replies, "No, we belong to another abomination!"

Ken Dodd said "My Dad always knew I was going to be a comedian. When I was a baby he kept saying, 'Is this a joke?'"