

Homily 3rd Sunday of Easter B 2021

The Easter season proclaims that Christ suffered, died and rose again to free us from sin and open us to eternal life. Impossible to repay but it invites us to respond with gratitude by living in the example of Jesus... A story:

In a class discussing God's existence a professor presented the following argument: "Has anyone in this class heard God?" Nobody spoke. "Has anyone in this class touched God?" Again, nobody spoke. "Has anyone in this class seen God?" When nobody spoke for the third time, he simply stated, "Then there is no God!"

A student asked if he could reply. Curious to hear this student's response, the professor granted it. The student stood up and asked the following questions of his classmates: "Has anyone in this class heard our professor's brain?" Silence. "Has anyone in this class touched our professor's brain?" Absolute silence. "Has anyone in this class seen our professor's brain?" When nobody in the class spoke, the student concluded, "Then, according to our professor's logic, it must be true that our professor has no brain!" (He received an "A" in this class.)

We have not seen, heard or touched Jesus but believe in him; but, like the climate emergency we face, it is far easier to believe it is not really important than to believe it is. Believing means we have to do something about it, even radically changing our lifestyle which can be both uncomfortable and demanding. The Pandemic offers us the opportunity to change.

In their first encounters with the Risen Christ, his closest friends failed to recognise him. Only when they were able to see, hear and touch him, did they recognise him. It is understandable that we, who have not seen, heard or touched him, find it difficult to recognise him when he comes to us, especially when he comes in the form of people we know as well as in the stranger. Our advantage is that we do not have an image into which we want to fit Jesus like his early disciples. We are open to being helped to encounter Jesus in the image he wants us to have of him.

Notice that the two disciples from Emmaus rushed back, full of energy and joy, to share with the other disciples the good news that Jesus had risen. Our encounters with Jesus will offer us the same energy and joy!!!

You stepped softly into my heart
with no great fanfare, but a gentle whisper.
And from those early moments I soon knew
you were the one whose name was written
beside my own before the dawn of time.

You stepped softly into my soul
and our spirits melded as two, intended
to become one, our chapter in the book
of souls now ready for its earthly penning.

You stepped softly into my life, and now
nothing is the same, for we are united
by the bond once scripted by the angels
in golden stardust in the heavens. *Carol Knepper*

A mother Chameleon was so overcome with joy when her eggs hatched, she dropped her camouflage. Looking down excitedly, she exclaimed, "Oh! I've become **apparent!**"

Scientists in Germany have discovered a New Particle that can only exist by absorbing Joy.
It's no laughing matter!