

Reflection Tuesday Easter Week 2 – 2021

Acts give us the reassuring sense that the early Christian community was a real family; each supportive of the other and willing to share. It was selfless, generous, trusting and loyal. Those early Christians evoke a sense of warmth and love that must have touched the hearts of all those who came into contact with them. This is the kind of family we seek to emulate. That Christian family is a prime example of how the Holy Spirit is at work within us. Blowing where it wills, the Spirit speaks of life and energy, carries with it a sense of newness that is refreshing, uplifting and positive, despite all the difficulties that early family endured. They model for us a story of which we are part today. We have faced the difficulties and challenges of lockdown for too long now, but the future is brightening and the Spirit now speaks to us of new life, the new life promised by Jesus. We are invited to be like that first community: selfless, generous, trusting and loyal so that we too can be supportive, be a sign of hope and renewal, lifting hearts and bringing joy to those around us.

A story of Easter hope. 'Four Candles' were alight in a room. The candles represented peace, faith, love and hope. The first candle, Peace, went out because the world was so full of violence and fighting. The second candle, Faith, went out because the world no longer believed. Then the third candle said, "I am Love. But people don't understand my importance anymore and put me aside. They even forget to love those closest to them" So, Love's flame also went out.

A child then entered the room – saw the four candles and wondered why only one was lit as they were all meant to be alight until the end of time. The fourth candle responded "Do not be afraid, child, I am Hope!" and, while I am still burning, we can re-light the other candles. The child's eyes were shining as she picked up the candle of hope and re-lit the other candles.

The child was told the greatest of these is love but the candle of hope should never go out in your life. With hope each of us can live with peace, faith and love!

Q: How can you drop a newly laid egg onto a concrete floor without cracking it? A: Any way you want, concrete floors are very hard to crack.

My friend said he knew a man with a wooden leg named Steve, so I asked him, "*What's the name of his other leg?*"