

Reflection Thursday Easter week 2023

Luke's Gospel leaves no doubt that Jesus had risen. He was touchable, yet portrayed the wounds he had received during his crucifixion, and he was able to eat like you and me. Jesus was not a ghost or an apparition but real. That same reality is given to us in the eucharist albeit in a different form. Jesus is here with us, walks by our side and asks us to be mediators of his grace, especially his healing forgiveness, for which the world yearns in so many different ways.

Pope Francis: *Like those disciples, we need to let ourselves be forgiven, to ask the heartfelt pardon of the Lord. We need to open our hearts to be forgiven. Forgiveness is the Easter gift that enables our interior resurrection. The risen Jesus appeared to the disciples and patiently soothed their troubled hearts. Risen himself he now brings about 'the resurrection of the disciples'. He reiterated the renewed mission of the disciples who now saw in others the same mercy that had changed their own lives. They discovered that they shared the mission: the forgiveness and the Body of Jesus, and so it seemed natural to share their earthly possessions.*

St Augustine of Hippo: "We praise God together in this assembly; but when we go on our various ways again, it may seem that we cease to praise God. However, provided we do not cease to live a good life, we shall always be praising God. You cease to praise God only when you swerve from justice and from what is pleasing to God. If you never turn aside from the good life, your tongue may be silent but your actions will cry aloud, and God will perceive your intentions; for as our ears hear each other's voices, so do God's ears hear our thoughts. (excerpt from commentary on *Psalm 148*)