

Reflection Easter Thursday 2024

In the Gospel reading Jesus suddenly appears to his disciples and says '*Peace be with you!*' Their initial response was one of alarm and fright, thinking they were seeing a ghost. Jesus then addresses them recognizing their agitation and doubts. To allay their fears, Jesus shows them his hands and feet and joy becomes their dominant emotion. However, the gospel says something unusual, '*their joy was so great that they still could not believe it*'. Fear had given way to joy and yet they still struggled to believe that Jesus was actually alive and standing among them.

Despite telling them often beforehand they still did not fully realise Jesus had risen. The risen Jesus, knowing this went to great lengths to convince them that he was alive, and alive in a new and more powerful way.

We can experience times when we are tempted to think that the message of Easter is too good to be true. Yet, Easter lies at the core of our faith. Without Easter, the Friday on which Jesus was crucified would never have come to be known as Good Friday.

Be patient with Jesus because he will do everything he can to help you experience his presence in your life and in the lives of others. Jesus will always be patient with you!