

EASTER (A)

Browsing through the 'readers digest' recently, I noticed a little humorous story which ran as follows: 'I was spending a few weeks with my daughter as she was expecting her third baby. On the second day of my visit, I collected Matthew, aged five, from school. He said: 'Granny, I didn't think you would still be here.' 'Oh' yes'. I said, 'I am still here.' Well, replied Matthew I have been learning all about God. When people get old he takes them'. Then looking up at me with a puzzled expression, he added: 'He must have forgotten about you' Well, Easter means that he hasn't forgotten about us.

St Augustine said: 'we are Easter people and 'ALLELUIA' is our song. Mary Magdalene and the other women came to the tomb as the sun was rising. Just like the rising sun disperses the darkness of the night, so Christ rising from the dead scatters the darkness of sin and death. Through baptism we share in His triumph.

The Resurrection means that Christ has invested the reality of death with new meaning. In his letter to the Romans, St Paul asks the question: 'Death, where is your victory'? Resurrection is the central teaching of our Christian Faith but it is also founded on reason. Science tells us that nothing in nature, not even the tiniest particle, can disappear without a trace. Nature does not know extinction - all it knows is transformation. At this time of the year we see the natural world awakening to new life. But since we humans are the cream of God's creation, from a rational point of view, it wouldn't make sense if death signalled the end of our existence. Life would be meaningless if what followed was an eternity of nothingness.

But life itself would be empty if it's devoid of love. Love is our origin, love is our constant calling in life, and love is our fulfilment in heaven. Eternal life in heaven is a never-ending exchange of love between the Divine persons and its God will that we be part of that exchange.

But it must begin in the here and now if we ever hope to possess it eternally. It's not an abstract truth. For instance, whenever we have our love rejected and we love again - that's resurrection. Whenever we pick up the pieces of a broken life and, with God's grace begin again - that's resurrection. Whenever we forgive people against all the odds, that resurrection. But it doesn't come on the cheap. It involves a constant 'dying to self' without which resurrection is devoid of meaning

Today we celebrate the Lord's 'Passover' from death to life. We joined Him in that crossing over at our baptism and the sprinkling of holy water on the congregation reminds us of this.