

EASTER (A B C)

Waiting for Godot is a drama in which Samuel Beckett offers a very gloomy view of the human condition. The action centres around two tramps waiting in vain for a person named Godo who symbolises God. Throughout the play the tramps keep talking about His coming, which never materialises. When the curtain falls, the audience knows that Godo will never come. 'We are waiting in vain' is the theme of the play. Today's feast tells a different story.

St Augustine, for instance, says: 'we are Easter people and **'ALLELUIA'** is our song.' Unlike the vagrants in Beckett's play we are not waiting in vain but look forward in hope to our own ultimate resurrection at the end of time. The death of Christ, the spotless Lamb, has rescued us from the powers of darkness. The ransom paid for this freedom was His precious Blood, freely shed for us. Carrying the Paschal Candle into the darkened Church tonight represents this.

The late Fr Charlie told me that in a certain part of Africa when a loved one dies they often sow a banana tree on the grave so that after they're gone they'll continue to be a source of life for those left behind.

But why wait till after we're dead. Eternal life must begin in the here and now if we ever hope to possess it eternally. As Easter people we warm peoples' lives with the sunshine of our love. Love is a resurrection word and, as Christians we are meant to be resurrection people. That is why Jesus, with the exception of Saul only appeared to people who held a place for him in their hearts like Mary Magdalene, Peter, the disciples. He didn't appear to those who plotted against him.

Resurrection, in the generic sense can happen in some ordinary down to earth ways.

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 begin again - that's resurrection. Whenever we turn our back on serious sin and seek forgiveness from the Lord - that's Resurrection.

And so, while being sprinkled with holy water we are reminded of our calling as Easter people to live our baptismal faith to the full and never let go of it.