

## Pastor's Note ~ Third Sunday Easter

15 April 2018

It takes at least fifty days to unpack the events that we celebrated during the Easter Triduum. How we unpack the Easter Mystery (not history) is brought about by the realities of our lives; the social, the political, the personal situations that we live in.

Remember the Easter mystery is absolutely central to our Christian lives. The dying and the rising of Jesus is the prism through which we see and understand our own life, death, and resurrection.

Easter people are those who are open to the Easter Scriptures and the preaching of the early Church. Don't refer to death and resurrection in just a biological way, this can reduce death to just a separation of body and soul or the ratification of Jesus by God the Father for the self-giving of his crucified Son.

To do this would be to ignore the rich treasury of teaching on the resurrection of Christ in the Scriptures – such as our Gospel today: Luke 24:35-48.

Vatican Council II spoke of the resurrection of Christ as the very climax of God's self-revelation through his son; "Christ reveals to us the innermost being of God" ..... "in Christ we encounter the definitive word of God who offers salvation for all."

The resurrection cannot be some pious overhang to our belief; it is the very core and heart of our Christian existence.

Could I suggest that the fifty Easter days are not about novenas, or conventions or rallies, not a time for compulsive mass going or prayer saying?

EASTER is a time to SAVOUR!

All too often we latch onto "holy things" and end up pushing the Lord further away. Resurrection is about encounter in the most profound sense of the word.

Easter is a period for us to embrace in our hearts the meaning and the implications of the Easter mystery for our everyday lives.

Not to do that, is to disconnect us from the mystery and leave the resurrection dangling as a piece of history.

The following Easter Scriptures could be helpful for your savouring.

Romans 6, John 20:1-18, Luke 24:13-35 John 20: 19-31, Luke 24:35-48,  
1Corinthians 15: 20-22.

***May the mystery of Easter open in your hearts.***

***Monsignor Paul Farmer***