

Rathfarnham Lectio Divina Group

Lectio will resume on 1st May 2025 at 7.30 in the Parish Centre

Reflect, meditate and pray, on each Sunday's Gospel



Third Sunday of Easter 4th May 2025

John 21:1 After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. 2 Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. 3 Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

John 21:4 Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. 5 Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." 6 He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. 7 That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. 8 But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

John 21:9 When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. 10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." 11 So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. 12 Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. 13 Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. 14 This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

John 21:15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." 16 A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." 17 He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. 18 Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." 19 (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

Until that moment, this Johannine community seems to have got along without a leadership structure and without a link to the "great" church, symbolised by Peter. The whole text functions as a kind of accord, whereby the Johannine community comes to recognise the role of Peter, through a reminder of his fundamental call and through his three-fold rehabilitation, significantly around a charcoal fire. Resurrection appearance narratives are highly symbolic in nature, usually reflecting critical issues at the time of writing.

In verse 15: The three-fold questioning is clearly an echo of the three-fold denial.

KIERAN O'MAHONY - tarsus.ie

In the second story we revisit the events of the passion when Peter, standing before a charcoal fire, denied three times that he even knew Jesus. Now again before a charcoal fire, Peter is given the opportunity to be fully reconciled to his Master and to tell him that he does indeed love him and to receive from Jesus his mission to care for the flock. This gospel is a reminder to us that without a living faith in the presence of Christ the church could easily become just another religious institution. To know our true identity as the People of God we must be open to hearing Jesus' question and to observing his command: "Do you love me? ... then feed my sheep."

SEAN GOAN - Let the Reader Understand (Yr C)

The story writer makes it clear that this work takes place at night and is unsuccessful *“They caught nothing that night”*. ‘Night’ means, in the language of the evangelist, the absence of Jesus who is light. Without the presence of the risen Jesus without his inspiration and guidance, there is no fruitful evangelisation.

In order to spread the Good News of Jesus and to work effectively for his project, it is highly important not to “do many things”, but to improve the human and evangelical quality of what we do. The determining factor is not the activities we conduct, but the witness we are called upon to give as Christians.

We cannot restrict ourselves to living a superficial faith. Above all, it is time to care for what is essential. We burden communities with words, books and writings, but what we need most of all is to listen to Jesus. We have many meetings, but the most important meeting is the one that gathers us together to celebrate the Lord’s Supper. He alone can keep filling us with the power to evangelise.

JOSÉ A PAGOLA - Following in the footsteps of Jesus - Year C

During Easter the Sunday and weekday gospel readings are taken from St John’s gospel; this is the time of year when the Church invites us to meditate on this gospel. St John is always very deep; traditionally his is known as “the spiritual gospel”; these weeks should therefore be a time for us to deepen our meditations.

Lord, we remember with gratitude our resurrection experiences:

- * our marriage, or a deep friendship, had collapsed,
- * a movement we believed in had broken up because of internal feuding,
- * we had unexpectedly lost our job.

We went about our daily tasks, but without enthusiasm, just going through the motions,

like Simon Peter saying “I am going fishing” and the others answering “We’ll come with you.”

Nothing worked; it was a case of going out in the boat and catching nothing all night.

Gradually, however, as the weeks went by, a little light appeared,

an inner voice told us that it was time to try again.

And suddenly things began to come right, there were so many fish we could not haul them in.

We know now that the inner voice was your presence within us,

a presence that never fails us even though we don’t always recognise it at first,

like the disciples not realizing that it was Jesus standing on the shore.

Lord, we pray for those who train ministers in your church.

Teach them to call these future ministers to them as Jesus called Simon Peter,

asking them, do they love Jesus?

And not to be satisfied with asking them once, but to ask three times

Even if this upsets them,

Because it is only if they have a personal relationship with Jesus

That they are fit to pasture his sheep.

MICHEL DE VERTEUIL - Lectio Divina on the Sunday Gospels (Year C)

POINTERS FOR PRAYER

1. The disciples spend a fruitless night fishing and catching nothing. Things change dramatically when Jesus appears and invites them to try again. Remember those who came to you and encouraged you to try again when you felt discouraged. Perhaps on some of these occasions the results were beyond your expectations.
2. Some people view the synodal process proposed by Pope Francis as a futile exercise, and others see it as an opportunity for renewal and growth. What have you seen or heard that encourages you to engage in the process?
3. Peter is given the chance to be fully reconciled with his Master after his denial during the Passion. Remember those who have given you an opportunity for reconciliation after you had hurt them or let them down. What was it like for you to be given this chance? To whom have you offered the possibility of reconciliation?

JOHN BYRNE - Intercom

(Fr John recently deceased please remember him in your prayers)

Jesus knows our needs. When we are disheartened or ready to give up, help can come from an unexpected source. It is often the simple moments of friendship and fellowship with others that are the most life-giving, when we sense God’s presence with us, giving us sustenance for the road ahead.

“For we are Easter people and we are called to celebrate the whole earth as the Body of Christ. Every act done in love gives glory to God:

a pause of thanksgiving,

a laugh,

a gaze at the sun,

or just raising a toast to your friends on your Zoom screen.

The Good News? He is not here! Christ is everywhere and love will make us whole.”

(Ilia Delio)

TRÍONA DOHERTY & JANE MELLETT – Go