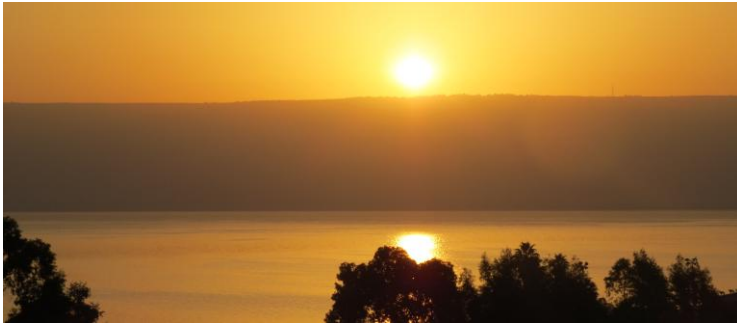


# LOOKING AT LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL



**THIRD SUNDAY  
OF EASTER**

**19th April 2026**

[www.orlaghinthecity.ie](http://www.orlaghinthecity.ie)

Luke 24:13-35 (see page 3 of this document)

## **General comments**

It is Easter morning, and Jesus leads the two disciples along the slow, painful journey to wisdom. God is inviting us to remember with gratitude times when he led us along a similar journey to the stage where we understood what was happening in our lives. We celebrate the teachers who did for us what Jesus did for the two disciples.

## **Prayer Reflection**

Lord, there have been times when we were totally discouraged. We walked aimlessly along the road, our faces downcast,

as we remembered the sad events of previous days:

- a project which we thought would change our country had failed;
- we were disappointed in a relationship that had seemed destined to fulfil all our longing;
- a Church community we had hoped would be a true body of Christ was torn apart by conflict.

Then, quite suddenly, unexpectedly, you sent your son Jesus to walk with us, even though we did not recognise him.

He came in the guise of a friend, a spiritual guide, a grandparent, who listened in silence as we told our story once more.

Then, when the moment was right,

that Jesus whom you sent showed us how foolish we were,

how slow to believe the full message of the prophets;

he explained the passages throughout the scriptures that were about ourselves while we listened in silence, our hearts burning within us.

We remember with gratitude how we were able to set out that instant and return to Jerusalem.

## **MICHEL DE VERTEUIL - Lectio Divina on the Sunday Gospels**

### **KIND OF WRITING**

A story unique to Luke — the story of Philip and the Eunuch in Acts mirrors it. Both belong to a type of folktale in which the welcome to the unrecognised stranger turns out to be the decisive event of your life. In the Jewish tradition, there are stories of Elijah, interestingly, exactly in this role. The Lucan version exhibits the typical features of resurrection appearance stories: doubt, lack of recognition, revelation and mission.

Notice that the reader knows more than the protagonists (with the exception of Jesus).

Sometimes people feel it would be wonderful to know which texts of Scripture the Lord had in mind. But in Luke's Gospel we do! Have a look at Luke 4:16-30.

### **Thought for the day**

We come to Easter faith by acknowledging the hungers of the heart ("our own hope had been"), by searching the scriptures ("our hearts burning within us"), by holding on to the story of the first disciples and witness of the women, by the Eucharist ("the breaking of the bread") and by sharing our faith ("they told their story"). Is there more? As the story starts, he stops them. Towards the end of the story, they stop him from walking out of their lives, perhaps for ever. The moment of desire leads to the moment of recognition and a life-changing encounter.

**KIERAN O'MAHONY OSA - [www.tarsus.ie](http://www.tarsus.ie)**

The two disciples walk back sad and desolate to their homes. They have lost their faith in Jesus. They do not hope for anything from him. Yet, the important thing is that these disciples do not forget Jesus; they talk and discuss about him; they remember his words and deeds as those of a great prophet. They let the stranger keep clarifying all that had happened. Their eyes are not opened immediately, but their hearts begin to burn.

What we most of all need in our communities is to remember Jesus, to understand deeply his message and his actions, to meditate on his crucifixion. If, at some point, Jesus moves us deeply, his words reach deeply within us, and our hearts begin to burn, it is a sign that our faith has begun to awaken.

This is not enough, however. Luke understands that the experience of the Eucharist is also necessary. Even though they do not know yet who he is, the two travellers feel the need for Jesus. His company does them good. They don't want him to leave them. During supper their eyes were opened.

These are two key experiences: to feel our hearts burning on hearing his message, on learning about his deeds and his whole life; and when we celebrate the Eucharist to feel that he nourishes us, strengthens us and comforts us. In this way, faith in the risen Christ grows.

### **JOSÉ A PAGOLA - Following in the Footsteps of Jesus**

#### **POINTERS FOR PRAYER**

1. Jesus joined the despondent disciples and listened to them. "We had hoped....".... When you have been upset or disappointed, who has joined you along the road? To whom have you been able to pour out your heart? Who was a 'Jesus person' to you, listening to you in respectful silence? To whom have you been a Jesus person?

2. Jesus then helps them to see things in another light by opening the scriptures to them. When did you have the experience of finding your heart 'burning within you' with new hope for the future? Who/what helped you to change after a setback?

3. The disciples invite Jesus to join them at table - there follows a recognition of who he is. We meet many people on the road of life. Usually we meet and pass on. Occasionally we meet someone whom we invite into our homes, into our hearts, in a deeper way. In what way in such relationships have you experienced the presence of God or of Jesus?

4. After Jesus had gone the disciples went to bring the good news to others. When have you met others who told you what happened to them along their road? What effect did this sharing have on you? When have you done this with others? When was such a conversation 'good news' for you or others?

### **JOHN BYRNE OSA - Intercom**

We are shown the disciples coming away from Jerusalem full of disappointment and lacking in understanding. On their journey they are brought to see things differently by a Jesus they only finally recognise at the breaking of bread, and in this scene the evangelist invites us to see ourselves. He challenges us with the line "you foolish people, slow of heart to believe.", that lies at the centre of the story and that explains what the Emmaus story is all about. Every Christian must come to a resurrection faith, one that accompanies Jesus through from Good Friday to Easter Sunday. We are invited to understand through our prayerful reading of the scriptures and the events that occur 'on the road' of our lives that the risen Lord still walks with us and meets us, especially when we gather to break bread, that is, share in the Eucharist.

**Reflection** The story of Easter may, unfortunately, remain just a retelling of some event from the distant past if we do not allow Jesus to show us how his resurrection is a source of life for us today. Its power is to be experienced in the ordinary events of life as we struggle to be faithful. However, it is often only with hindsight that we can see the ways the Lord has accompanied us on the road. This is the work of the Spirit who lives in our hearts, so let us not be slow to ask for his help.

### **SEAN GOAN - Let the Reader Understand**

***"The old news about Easter is that it is about the resurrection. The new news may be that it is not so much about the resurrection of Jesus as it is about our own... Jesus, you see, is already gone from the tomb. The only question now is whether or not we are willing to abandon our own" (Joan Chittister)***

*Enter into the Emmaus story with the disciples and Jesus as they walk. Whatever your truth is today, share this with Jesus: your dreams, your heartache, your reality. Allow him to speak to you.*

*Can you remember a time when your 'eyes were opened'? What word was spoken to you? By whom? What food did you receive?*

### **TRÍONA DOHERTY & JANE MELLETT - Go Deeper**

## **Gospel Luke 24:13-35**

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?' They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.