

Thursday 9th April

Easter Thursday

“Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures”

Luke 24:45

Acts 3:11–26

Psalm 8:2, 5–9

Luke 24:35–48

In today's Gospel we see two disciples sharing their testimony of the divine encounter they had on the road to Emmaus. While they were speaking, the Lord Jesus stands among them and wishes them peace. I learn that sharing testimonies of a divine encounter draws the presence of the Lord Jesus, and acts as a catalyst for those around me to have a divine encounter.

The disciples were in hiding, terrified, with their hopes shattered. What happened when the disciples shared their testimony was unexpected and beyond reason. I learn that when God encounters me while I am in trouble, I may not recognise it as an encounter. Our Lord Jesus asks them why they are confused. Was it not obvious to Him? Or did he want them to give Him the truth of their hearts? He then begins to reveal himself to them, starting from inviting them to look at His wounds. Over the years we have learned that the wounds were the signs of defeat, shame and death, which had now become the signs of victory, and evidence that God can turn any curse into a blessing.

Our Lord Jesus goes to great lengths to prove that He is alive. He shows them his hands and his feet, and he asks them for food to eat. In a divine encounter, we discover that God is alive. This is the secret of evangelization to an intellectual world that denies the existence of God, not logical arguments but facilitating a divine encounter. The disciples hear the voice of the Lord, and see the hand of God in the very incidents that they thought that God had let them down. The key is that the Lord opened their minds to understand scripture. The reading is clear. It was not that the disciples learnt a new technique of interpreting scripture; it was a gift from above.

The first reading describes the afterglow of the cripple being healed. St. Peter uses that opportunity to witness. I learn that a miracle is only a beginning and not an end in itself. What does St. Peter share? The experience of discovering that the Lord was alive and the very things Our Lord Jesus revealed to him in the encounter described in the Gospel. Witnessing is not sharing intellectual truths but sharing what we have seen and experienced in our divine encounters. It is also sharing what we have learnt when we have heard the voice of the Lord. It awakens the spirit of those who hear.

Prayer: Abba Father, Open our minds to the scripture, just as you opened the minds of your disciples. Amen