

Dear Friends of St Mary's

Third Sunday of Easter

The two disciples on the road to Emmaus were joined by someone they did not recognise at first. They fell into conversation about the events in Jerusalem and the stranger, Jesus, explained to them the real import of the events that had taken place.

When they reached Emmaus, Jesus walked ahead as if he were going on but they persuaded them to join them, as it was getting late.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. John 24:30-31

We have not had the opportunity to break bread together since the Third Sunday in Lent, which was 15th March. Like me, I know that many of you miss coming to church on Sunday. More especially, I know that many of you particularly miss receiving Holy Communion.

This non-Eucharistic tension is acute for us all but more so for me as it would have been very easy for Helen and I to conduct a Communion service for ourselves here in the Rectory, especially on Easter Day.

A priest has many roles and responsibilities. Amongst them must be a sharing in the suffering of his or her people. I believe that it would have been an abuse of trust and care if I had almost abused my position by caring for my own needs and not regarding the needs of my parishioners.

I would rather wait to celebrate the end of the lockdown of our church buildings with our first Parish Eucharist when I hope you will all join me in St Mary's to truly celebrate, somewhat belatedly, the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Like Cleopas and his companion, we are walking the road to Emmaus. The only problem is that we don't know when we will get there!

Thoughts and prayers

Godfrey