

There are comparisons we can make with the gospel of this Sunday to the present: these are extraordinary times and we too run the risk of interpreting them as people without faith. I have been thinking recently about how difficult these times are and how we could try to understand them without faith. If we do this, it makes no sense. In placing my hopes on faithless answers, I can run the risk of hearing Jesus' words addressed to me: "You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets!"

For those on the road to Emmaus this was a time to reflect on the importance of the sacrifice of Christ; it is also for us, a time to reflect, on the sacrifice of Christ, and now the sacrifice we celebrate on Anzac Day. Again, without faith, we are left without an understanding of these events. The two disciples want to understand the events trying to avoid any appreciation of Christ's suffering. In doing this, they and ourselves foolishly think we can avoid any suffering ourselves. When we take up Christ's suffering, we also share the suffering of one another – we take up His cross with him. In doing this, we also share the hope of the Resurrection with Him and share it with one another.

I have been remembering during the week some of the interpretations of today's gospel - Cleopas in some is referred to as a close relative of Jesus, maybe an uncle. This would make it more surprising that he does not recognise Jesus on the road to Emmaus. In appreciating the suffering of our present time, it is all the more important to share it with Christ's suffering and in doing so also to share his Resurrection. We the adopted relatives of Jesus, His brothers and sisters, recognise him: and share his suffering but also His Hope.

The last part of the gospel account ends with a perception of the events, that has a more profound meaning - through the celebration of the Eucharist and as a community discerning the end of the journey, in the communal assembly of the Church. We look with faith and hope to that understanding when we can celebrate it with joy in the presence of our parish community, the Church and Christ.

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