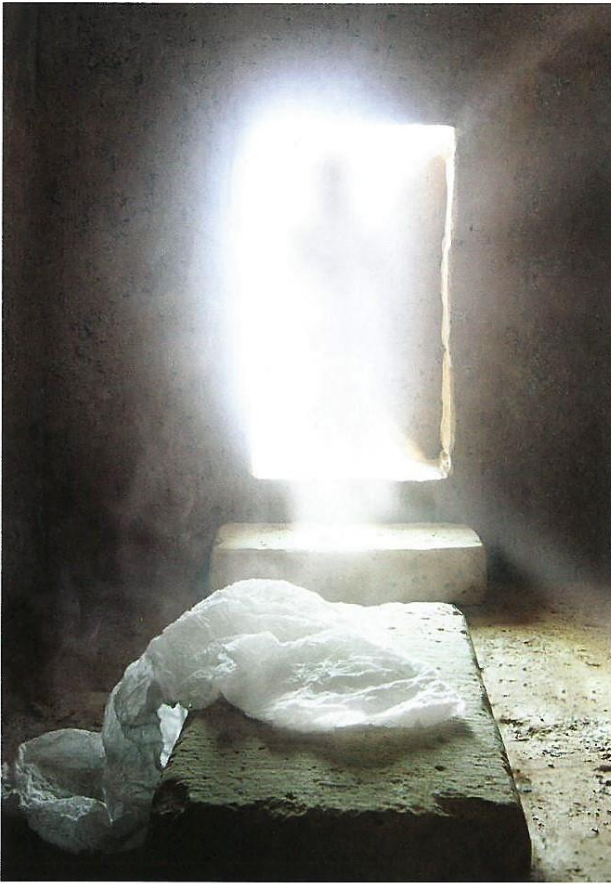


SUNDAY PLUS

See and believe



The cosmos was shaken

By Fr Royston Price C.Ss.R.

In John's account of the resurrection of the Lord, the beloved disciple and Peter rush to the empty tomb and, going in, find the empty graveclothes. It seems that this is the key moment in their belief in the resurrection: everything now fits together, all that Jesus taught them and the witness of scripture fall into place, and they grasp that the Messiah must rise from the dead.

Jesus isn't just some political revolutionary who will chase the Romans out and restore national dignity. It seems that Judas had that idea, seeing the Kingdom of God in purely earthly terms. Even now, how often do we hear people praise Jesus for his moral teaching, but shy away from the hard, spiritual questions that his life, death

and resurrection raise? In fact, like the two racing to the tomb on that first Easter, once we grasp the reality of the resurrection, then we have the key to start to comprehend the entire life of Jesus, the entirety of scripture, and the totality of human existence. As seen vividly in the liturgy of the Easter vigil, read in the light of the risen Christ, then the human condition as well as the story of all God's actions among his chosen people become freshly illuminated. All prophecy finds its fulfilment in the glorious resurrection of Christ. That first Easter morning, amid the mist and fresh dew, the cosmos was shaken and nothing would ever again be the same.

Fr Royston Price is the Vocations Director for the London Province of the Redemptorists.

Risen Lord, fill me with your life and joy so that I can radiate it to everybody I meet. Fill everyone whom I know and love with new life and hope. ☩ Amen.

Check the evidence

By Lucy Russell

"Are statues of individuals like Rhodes and Colston of any historical value today?" This was a challenge question I set my Year 9 History class. They were uncompromising. "No," was their response. "Really? If we remove these statues and those like them, don't we risk hiding and forgetting the past? What about Antony Gormley's suggestion that Rhodes' statue is turned to face the wall?" I

thought Gormley's suggestion was worthy of discussion. They didn't. "Take them down". I was surprised, but their reaction made me think. Could we learn something from an empty plinth? What does emptiness communicate? For Mary Magdalene on Easter morning, it was an absence. For many, empty space symbolises nothingness. But physicists tell us there is a special kind of energy that fills so-called empty space. The empty tomb is the first piece of evidence in support of the resurrection. Here the emptiness communicates the truth.

Dr Lucy Russell is the author of Who Do You Say You Are?, available from Redemptorist Publications, www.rpbooks.co.uk

Christ is alive, with joy we sing;
We celebrate our risen Lord,
Praising the glory of his name.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

He is the sun which brings the dawn:
He is the light of all the world,
Setting us free from death and sin.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.



"The Risen Shepherd goes in search of all those lost in the labyrinths of loneliness and marginalisation. He comes to meet them through our brothers and sisters who treat them with respect and kindness, and help them to hear his voice, an unforgettable voice, a voice calling them back to friendship with God."

Pope Francis

Today:
Acts 10:34, 37-43
Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6-8
John 20:1-9

Monday:
Acts 2:14, 22-33
Matthew 28:8-15

Tuesday:
Acts 2:36-41
John 20:11-18

Wednesday:
Acts 3:1-10
Luke 24:13-35

Thursday:
Acts 3:11-26
Luke 24:35-48

Friday:
Acts 4:1-12
John 21:1-14

Saturday:
Acts 4:13-21
Mark 16:9-15

Next Sunday:
Acts 5:12-16
Apocalypse 1:9-13, 17-19
John 20:19-31