

SUNDAY PLUS

Alleluia!



Believing is a sense of truth

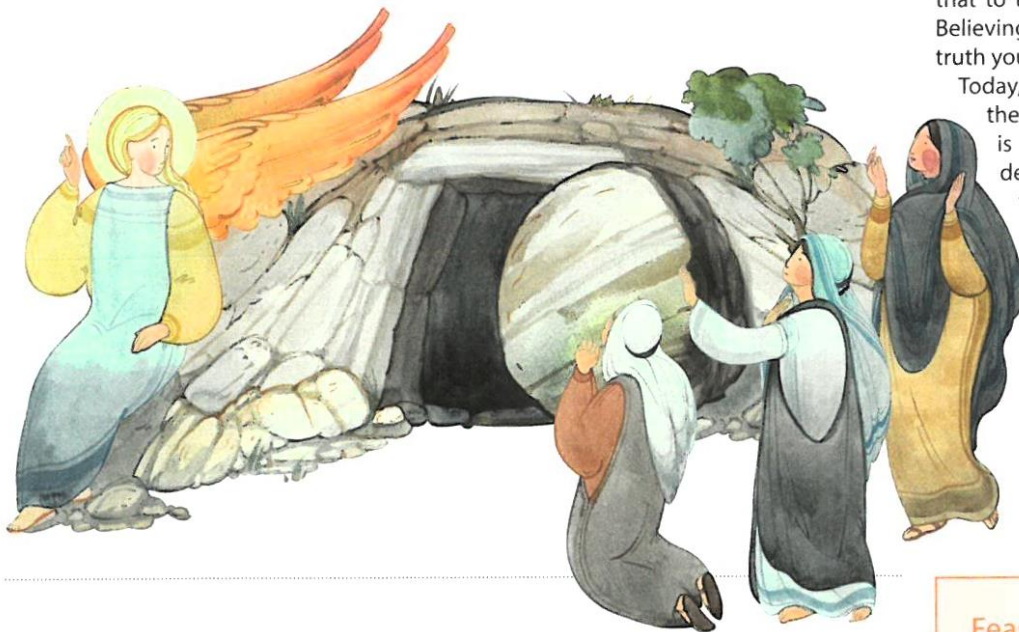
By Natalie Claveria

Is seeing really believing? Whenever there is a magic show on television my children always try to figure out the illusion – just how did they do that?

There are so many sleight of hand movements, camera tricks, illusions, but why do we always need proof? I guess it is reassuring to have something tangible, something we can touch, hold, see and feel. But, as Christians, we know that to truly believe you merely just need to have faith. Believing is a sense of truth within your heart: the kind of truth you don't need to hold or touch.

Today, we hear the disciples, upon initially reaching the tomb, each in a sense of bewilderment. Where is he? How did he leave? Where had he gone? It is devastating to miss someone so much and to feel they are misplaced. In fact, we are the ones who are misplaced when we are grieving. We have all heard the bereaved utter the words, "I just can't believe they've really gone". But, as Christians, our true "magic" is our faith and knowing we are granted eternal life. There is no form or badge that entitles us entry. We just know that because we believe and that is truly the greatest gift. Alleluia!

A busy Mum and active in her parish, Natalie Claveria is also the Head of Sales, Distribution & Customer Experience for Redemptorist Publications.



Let us feel the joy of being Christian! We believe in the Risen One who conquered evil and death! Let us have the courage to "come out of ourselves" to take this joy and this light to all the places of our life.

Pope Francis

Resurrection joy

By Catherine Gorman

It is not always easy to believe. Faith can give way to doubt, especially in the most difficult times. But we are in good company. On hearing that the tomb was empty, the disciples didn't know what to think.

On arriving, Peter rushed straight in, but John hesitated. He didn't know what he was going to find and taking that step forward was daunting. But in the end, he entered, saw and believed.

What holds us back from welcoming the joy of the resurrection into our own lives? As we contemplate the world around us with all its problems of poverty and injustice, do we hesitate to take action or fall into doubt?

Instead, let us step forward into the joy and hope of the resurrection, remembering that nothing is impossible for God and that we have all been given new life. And let us try to share this gift of hope with others through our actions, so that throughout the world all people may flourish.

Catherine Gorman, the Theology Communications Lead at CAFOD, also writes regularly for Redemptorist Publications.

Feast of the week
Wednesday 3 April

St Richard of Chichester
(1197-1253)

Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits thou hast given me,
for all the pains and insults thou hast borne for me.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know thee more clearly,
love thee more dearly,
and follow thee more nearly, day by day.
Amen.

St Richard of Chichester

Living Lord, fill me and everybody I know and love with Easter joy. Make our lives a song of praise. Let every moment be an alleluia. Amen.

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 4:32-35
1 John 5:1-6
John 20:19-31