



Resurrection is as earthy, local and intimate as our sweat and blood, our dreams and nightmares, our drives and passions. It is as real as whatever or whoever drives and drains us, draws and drags us.

Resurrection, in fact, is the deepest meaning of everything that brings a smile to our faces, a tear to our eyes, a vitality to our bodies, a softness to our voices and a tenderness to our touch. Resurrection is as real as that.

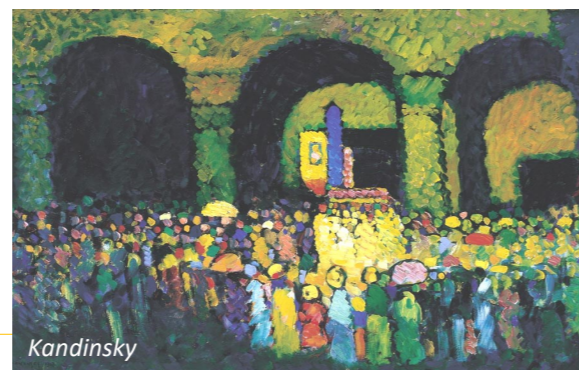
To believe this is to be transformed into another way of perceiving our identity and our humanity. To believe this is to be subjected to a paradigm shift where we are present to ourselves and others in an irrevocably transformed way. A veil parts. The stone is moved. The focus changes. In light of this disclosure moment, I find it so moving to believe that the lifeless and vibrant, the full and the empty, the struggling and hoping people around and before me are, without doubt, the very heart of the church, the blessed sacrament of the divine presence, the only true and real presence of the living Christ of the Resurrection. God comes to us disguised as our lives. Nothing is just ordinary any more. Every bush is a burning bush. This incredible revelation is, in fact, the very mystery we celebrate at every Eucharist.

The Resurrection promises that dry places will always burst into vibrant life, that the stone will always be rolled away, that nothing good stays dead for long. Every dream

can be stirred into life, every fire re-kindled. To be sure, we all carry small graves of cynicism and despair within us. Most of us are acquainted with demons of guilt, shame and sadness. The stunning revelation of Easter is that this winter is all over, without exception and for ever. There is no sin, loss, betrayal or despair that is final. All we have to do is choose life, forgiveness and compassion.

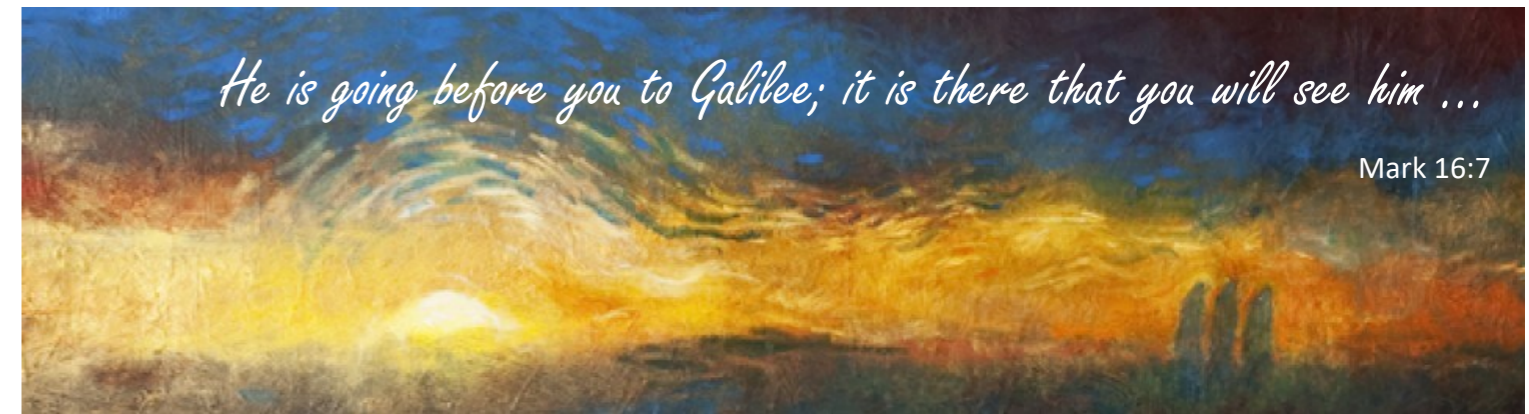
Fr Daniel O'Leary Easter 2011

God comes to us disguised as our lives



Christ is risen! Let us repeat it with words but above all with the witness of our lives. The happy news of the Resurrection should shine on our faces, in our feelings and attitudes, in the way we treat others. We proclaim the Resurrection of Christ when his light illuminates the dark moments of our life and we can share that with others; when we know how to smile with those who smile and weep with those who weep; when we walk beside those who are sad and in danger of losing hope; when we recount our experience of faith with those who are searching for meaning and for happiness.

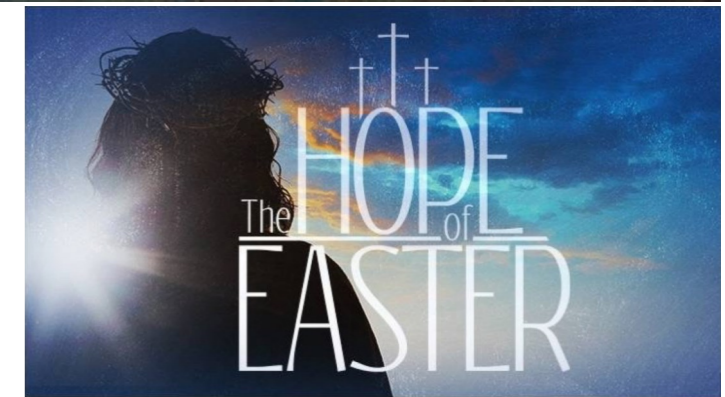
Pope Francis Regina Coeli Address 2015



As Fr Richard Leonard writes, Galilee does not have to be a place for us. It's situation, a frame of mind, or a choice we make. ... Our particular Galilee could be the desolate journey of physical, emotional, sexual or spiritual pain. It could be dashed promises, broken relationships, or unrealised hopes. Whatever it is, Easter promises us that Christ is not only there when we arrive, he has gone ahead of us, to that desolate place, so that we might have loving arms in which to fall at journey's end.

We come to the joy of Easter because we seek Jesus of Nazareth, whose love has arrested us. We want to follow his way in our way of discipleship, whatever path and complex destination upon which we may have to embark.

Richard Leonard SJ What Are We Hoping For? (New York: Paulist Press, 2015)



I have hope because I believe that God is born anew each morning, because I believe that God is creating the world at this very moment in time.

It is happening now.

We must be ready to expect the unexpected from God.

God is here, near us, unforeseeable and loving.

WE ARE ALL CALLED TO BE HOLY

To be holy does not require being a bishop, a priest or a religious. We are frequently tempted to think that holiness is only for those who can withdraw from ordinary affairs and spend much time in prayer. That is not the case. We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves. Are you called to the consecrated life? Be holy by living out your commitment with joy. Are you married? Be holy by loving and caring for your husband or wife, as Christ does for the Church. Do you work for a living? Be holy by labouring with integrity and skill in the service of your brothers and sisters. Are you a parent or grandparent? Be holy by patiently teaching the little ones how to follow Jesus. Are you in a position of authority? Be holy by working for the common good and renouncing personal gain.

Let the grace of your baptism bear fruit in a path of holiness.

Pope Francis Rejoice & Be Glad n 14 -15

Holiness in the Hebrew sense means to walk with God despite our flaws and not being whole, true and beautiful.

Being in God's presence as we are

Micah 6

I believe in the Holy Spirit at work in the Church and in the world, even where the name of God is unheard.

I believe in the surprises of the Holy Spirit.

To hope is a duty not a luxury.

To hope is not to dream, but to turn dreams into reality.

Cardinal Suenens

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13