

Thought for the week

Third Sunday of Easter — 15th April 2018

We continue to contemplate the Easter message, the risen Lord and what this really means for us. The readings have an interesting element of the now emboldened disciples going out preaching, or rather admonishing the people for disowning and having the prince of life killed - asking them to repent so that their sins may be wiped away.

I can only assume that this courage came after having seen the risen Christ because until then, they doubted. They were not quite sure; indeed, they were unable to recognise Him immediately for who He was. We are told that Jesus had to *'open their minds'*, to *'bless bread and break it'*, to use greetings he had used with them before his death, like *'peace be with you'* before they could comprehend His risen self, despite being there with them.

I cannot recall anywhere in the bible where we are told how the disciples repented, given that they were closest to Jesus and still abandoned him. This to me implies they too were complicit in handing Him over and having the Prince of life killed (as they remind others in their preaching). I wonder whether Peter, for example, apologised for denying Jesus - how does one apologise? Or, was the joy and enormity of the situation so great, all was instantly forgiven and forgotten?

I am sure the disciples were repentant and were readily forgiven for indeed they received the Holy Spirit that emboldened them to preach repentance and forgiveness, in turn. Such repentance and forgiveness seem so much harder in today's world, though.

We are bombarded with daily news or experiences of injustice (sin) done and then denied until overwhelming evidence is presented, only then is a feeble apology presented. We see people angry and hurt who resolve to 'revenge' as their 'way out' perpetuating the spiral of hate and hurt.

Will we be complicit in perpetuating hurt or will we, having come through Lent and therefore come to 'know Him' that little bit more, commit to obey and keep His commandments? He knows this is not easy, as He knew it wouldn't be for His disciples - so we pray for His spirit to renew us each day as we do our bit to heal the world.

A parishioner