

**Thought for the week**  
**21<sup>st</sup> April 2019**  
**Easter Sunday**

Today, Easter Day, is the day around which our Christian faith and the fate of the world pivots. At the first glimpse of dawn, while still dark, the women go to the tomb where Jesus' corpse was placed three days before. What do they find? The stone had been rolled away and the body gone. They go off to tell the apostles and when Peter goes inside, he sees the binding cloths and nothing else. What had happened? The women had been asked, "*Why look among the dead for someone who is alive?*" As the apostles looked around the empty tomb understanding dawned, just as the new day was dawning, that the teaching of scripture was, '*He must rise from the dead.*' Later that day the risen Jesus would appear to them and talk to them.

Throughout human history, from the moment humankind disobeyed God and decided to go its own way and suffer the consequences, God unfolded his plan that would allow people to return to him and experience his love and consolation. This was fulfilled when God took on flesh and blood as Jesus, suffered, died and defeated death by rising again. Jesus then returned to his Father. Where flesh and blood in the person of Jesus went, we can follow, but the choice is ours.

God doesn't coerce us, but invites us to return to him now, so that we can be with him for ever. Jesus taught us how to choose eternal life with God and summed it up very simply, "*Love God and love your neighbour.*" So, on this Easter Day, as I give thanks for God's love of me, I need to consider how I reciprocate. Do I give him 'quality' time on a regular basis or fit him in when other commitments allow? Do I show love, understanding and compassion for the people I meet in my daily life or simply use them to get the things I want? As we move through Eastertide let us ask the risen Lord to guide us as we seek to follow him to his Father and our Father.

Christ is risen! He has risen indeed! (Paschal greeting)