

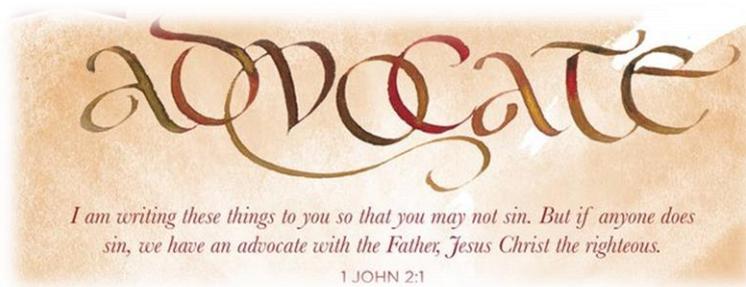
## Third Sunday of Easter

Year B

The scripture readings today remind us that we are witnesses to the Resurrection of Jesus.

In the first reading Paul admonishes the Jews for handing Jesus over to the authorities, disowning him and choosing Barabbas to be freed over Jesus and so sending Jesus to his death. He softens his words by saying that the people and their leaders had no idea what they were really doing and suggests that they repent and turn to God.

The second reading tells us that Jesus is the sacrifice that takes our sin and the sin of the whole world away. It tells us that Jesus is our Advocate and that when we follow his commandments, God's love comes to perfection in us.



Pope Francis says:

*“I believe we should really think about this truth, about this reality: Jesus is praying for me right now. Jesus is our advocate before the Father, I can go on in life because I have an advocate who defends me and if I am guilty and I have so many sins ... he is a good defence attorney and will speak of me to the Father”.*

In the passage before today's Gospel begins, we hear the story of the two disciples who met Jesus on the road to Emmaus and how they discussed the scriptures with him, only recognising him in the breaking of bread.



They had rushed back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples and were still talking to them about all that had happened when Jesus stood amongst them. He then says his greeting, “*Peace be with you*”. They were frightened but Jesus reassures them and they become overjoyed. He then asks for something to eat and they give him a piece of grilled fish. He goes on to help them to understand the scriptures and reminds them that they are witnesses to the Resurrection.

*Mary of Magdala proclaims the Resurrection of Jesus to the Disciples*



How can we be witnesses to the Resurrection?

Pope Francis says, “*The Lord wants us to make our lives masterpieces through the ordinary things, the everyday things we do. We are called to bear witness to Jesus right where we live, in our families, at work, everywhere, even just by giving the light of a smile, a light that is not our own – it comes from Jesus*”. He goes on to say that there are many “hidden saints, saints who are next-door, hidden witnesses of life who, with little acts of love change history”. He says that the key to this witness is shining not by our own light, but by reflecting the light of Christ.

So we need to be:

People of LOVE  
People of HOPE  
People of FAITH  
People of FORGIVENESS  
People of COMPASSION

People of TENDERNESS  
People of STRENGTH  
People of WELCOME  
People of JOY  
PEOPLE OF GOD

**Alleluia**