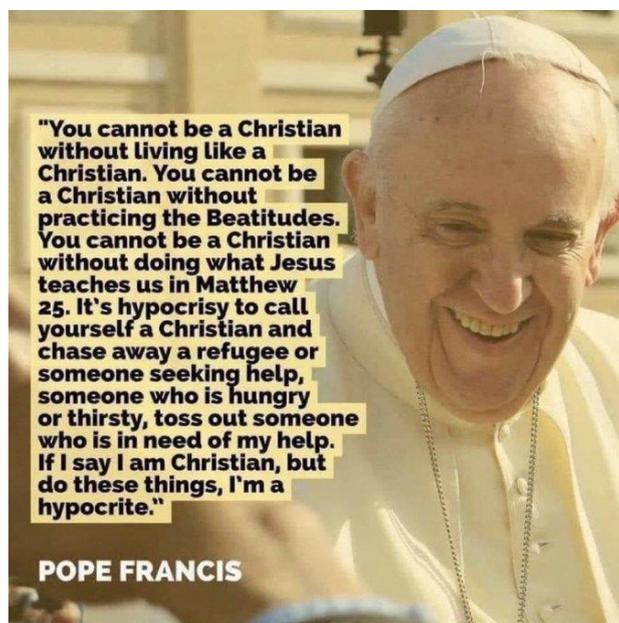




Our liturgies for the Triduum were amazing; so prayerful, reflective, emotional..... and all deeply spiritual. Better than a retreat in my opinion!

The season of Easter continues, however, and our readings reflect the post-resurrection stories as the friends of Jesus moved from fear to freedom; from uncertainty to faith; from darkness into light. They became ready to stand up for their faith, to profess their belief in the Resurrected Jesus and to show by the way they cared for others, what it meant to be a friend and follower of Jesus.

Our world needs us to live as Christians. We need to stand up for the values of Jesus, despite what politicians might say. Pope Francis makes this very clear in his statement below:



The message that we hear so often in the Resurrection stories is spoken to each of us today.

*“Peace be with you.”*

*“There is no need for you to be afraid.”*

These messages are given to us as they were to Mary of Magdala.

John’s Gospel tells us that Mary of Magdala did not recognise the Risen Jesus until he called her by her name,

***“Mary”***.

The Risen Jesus calls us by name each day, to live as his friend and follower sharing the Good News of love, compassion and hope. Being called by name is an intimate action which recognises our relationship with the one who calls us by name. It is a recognition of our worth as a person, made in the image and likeness of God.

In the Gospel of today, the risen Lord meets his closest friends for the first time since they had all abandoned him in his hour of need. The disciples of Jesus had locked the door for fear that the same thing that happened to Jesus would happen to them. In that moment of surprise and fear, Jesus comes with a message of comfort, *“Peace be with you,”* while they were feeling they had failed as his disciples. He entrusted them with the same mission he had received from the Father. *“As the Father sent me, I also send you”*.

We are the ones Jesus speaks of in today’s Gospel when he says, *“Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe”*. May we hear the Risen Christ call us by name and so follow him as faith filled Christians who practice the Beatitudes.

