

Celebration

Welcome to our reflection for Church without Walls

Here are some ideas of how to use these reflections:

Pray that God will lead your thoughts.

Sit comfortably, take a few deep breaths and relax.

Let your mind wander as you read the reflection. Write down your thoughts in a notebook. If you are busy, try and pick out something to take with you in odd moments during the day.

You may wish to memorise the Bible verse. Write it out and stick it up somewhere.

Bible Verse

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!' After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. (John 20:19,20)

Reflection



Some of you will read this on Good Friday. A quiet day. A day when we stand with the disciples and try to experience what it was like for them. Everything had

gone wrong. Their hopes dashed. They were scared. The women mourned at the foot of the cross their dying leader, Jesus.

The first Good Friday we experienced in Kenya took us by surprise. When we arrived at the church where we had been invited to give a seminar after lunch, there was an air of celebration and the service included joyful dancing. We found it difficult to get our heads round it. We don't know whether that was the pattern in all the churches there.

It has made me wonder whether we should see it as a day of great celebration. It is through his death we are forgiven. So should it be a sombre day or a day to dance as we begin the most amazing three days in history?

Or do we try to walk with Jesus to the cross, accepting that suffering can bring joy?

Some of you will read this on Saturday when the followers of Jesus were mourning, confused, scared of the future. Do you feel like that at the moment? You are in an in between stage. The future is unknown and difficult to plan.

Some of you will be reading this on Easter Day or later. Easter Day is a day of celebration. **He is risen! He is risen indeed!** Yet on that first Easter Day the disciples had mixed emotions. They were still scared and confused. They celebrated behind locked doors. Or were they too confused to celebrate.

This Easter is different for us for the second year running. No big celebrations. No big family or friends get-togethers. No treats to special places. No short holidays. As different as it is for us this year, that first Easter the followers of Jesus found their lives had changed. How do you think it changed them? Has this pandemic changed you? Are you celebrating life in all its fullness?

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