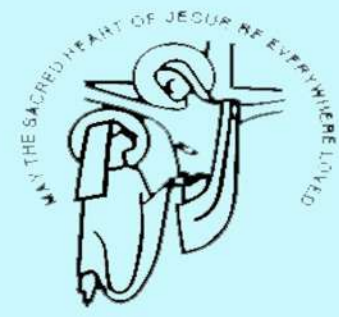


III SUNDAY OF EASTER



God is always near to those who seek Him and who want to live in His presence, doing His will. The risen Jesus walks with us in our life's journey towards God, guiding us when we feel lost and supporting us when we feel down. St. Luke's Emmaus story teaches us that the risen Lord meets us on the road to our Emmaus, both in the ordinary experiences of our lives, and in the places to which we retreat when life is too much for us. We, too, have hopes and dreams about better health, healing, financial security and family relationships. These hopes and dreams often shatter. The story promises us, however, that Jesus will come to us in unfamiliar guises to support and strengthen us when we least expect our risen Lord. Emmaus moments come to us when we meet the risen Christ on our life's journey through rough times.

Jesus asks us to surrender our difficulties into his hands and continue our journey. At times we can experience his presence with us; at other times we can't. He is like the sun in the sky, which at times is big and bright and clearly visible in the sky, but other times, it disappears behind a layer of clouds and seems to have vanished from the sky. But we know from experience that the sun is always somewhere in the sky. So too, in our low points of our journey we should not be disturbed by the apparent absence of the Lord; we should rather use them as opportunities to show Christ our trust that he is still walking with us and he will appear to console and heal us.

Jesus is present among us in all our sacramental celebrations especially in the Eucharist. In the breaking of bread, he unites the Christian community into his Body. Our experience of loving and being loved by Jesus makes us to share that experience with others to help them walk the Way of Jesus, which is the Way of Truth and Life. He transforms us as his messengers in the world around us.

Today we have our own Emmaus journey; God challenges us to meet the Risen Christ who comes to us in our ordinary life situations. In this journey let us ask the Christ to open the eyes of our minds, so that we may recognize Him.

**Fr Tijo John msc
OLSH, 26-04-2020**