

## 27. The Resurrection

*The resurrection of Christ changes everything. The cross and resurrection are two inseparable parts of one great movement of grace. Without it, we have no gospel, no salvation, no saving message, and no future hope.*

### Key terms:

<b>Paschal Mystery:</b>	The central events of Christ's redemptive work, specifically his Passion, Death, Resurrection and Ascension.
<b>Redemption:</b>	Jesus' saving actions that ransomed us from sin and reconciled us to the Father.
<b>Resurrection</b>	The rising from the dead of believers on the Last Day in a new, or risen, life. is the belief that Jesus came back to life three days after he died on the cross.

### THE FAITH WE PROFESS

#### Apostles' Creed

'I believe in the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting'.

#### Nicene Creed

'For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day'.

'and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come'.

### THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS – THE EARLY CHURCH

- Peter declares death could not hold Jesus because He is the author of life. (Acts 2:24)
- Peter affirms the apostles were direct witnesses to the resurrection, emphasising the reality of Jesus' resurrection. (Acts 2:32)
- Peter tells his audience that God's resurrection of Jesus proves Jesus is the "author of life". (Acts 3:15)
- The church's message of the resurrection caused conflict with the religious authorities. (Acts 4:2)
- Peter attributes the healing of a lame man to the power of Jesus, raised from the dead. (Acts 4:10)
- The apostles' testimony about the resurrection of Jesus was powerful and through it, God's grace was evident in their work and lives. (Acts 4:33)
- The resurrection represents a new life in Christ. (Acts 5:20)
- Peter, in his sermon to Cornelius, speaks of the resurrection as a demonstration of God's power and proof of Jesus' divine mission. (Acts 10:40)
- Paul preaches in Antioch, emphasizing that the resurrection is the fulfilment of prophecy and the ultimate evidence of Jesus being the Messiah, fulfilling God's promises. (Acts 13:30-33)
- Paul speaks of the eternal nature of Jesus' resurrection; He is the first to be raised to eternal life, guaranteeing that He will never die again. (Acts 13:34)

- Paul links the forgiveness of sins to the resurrection, as it is through Jesus' defeat of death that we are offered forgiveness and reconciliation with God. (Acts 13:38)
- Paul explains that the resurrection was essential for the Messiah's mission and proves that Jesus is the promised Saviour. (Acts 17:3)
- The resurrection is the focal point of the dispute. The claim that Jesus was alive again, after being dead, caused conflict and confusion. (Acts 25:19)
- Paul ties his hope in the resurrection to God's promises to Israel. Jesus' resurrection was the fulfilment of those promises. (Acts 26:6)
- Paul challenges his audience to accept the possibility of resurrection, emphasizing that if God can create life, raising the dead is not beyond His power. (Acts 26:8)
- Paul emphasizes that Jesus is the first to be raised to eternal life, and through His resurrection, the message of salvation is brought to both Jews and Gentiles. (Acts 26:23)

### **THE PASCHAL MYSTERY IS THE WILL OF THE FATHER FOR THE SON TO COMPLETE OUR REDEMPTION (Heb 9:26)**

- Although his entire life was redemptive, Jesus accomplished the work of our redemption principally through the Paschal Mystery.
- The Paschal mystery accomplished the four reasons for the Incarnation – the fullness of the Father's plan
  - The Son of God became man to reconcile us to God by dying for our sins (Jn.3:16-17)
  - The Son of God became man to show us the depth of God's love for us (Rom 5:8)
  - The Son of God became man to show us how to be holy (Mt. 11:29-30; Jn. 14:6)
  - The Son of God became man so that we might become God's adopted children and participate in his own divine nature (Gal 4:4-5; 2Pt. 1:3-4)

### **WHAT IS THE RESURRECTION?**

- A return to life after death.
- Finds its origin in Christ, who is the "firstborn from among the dead" (Col. 1:18).
- The resurrection embodies a greater desire to be with Christ, a call to conversion, and to live our vocation to holiness.

### **JESUS' RESURRECTION (1Cor 15:12-35)**

- The Resurrection verified Jesus' divinity and message.
- By his Resurrection, Jesus conquered death.
- The Resurrection is the irreversible entry of Jesus' humanity into divine glory.
- Jesus' Resurrection opens the way to new life and brings about our adoption as children of God (Gal 4:4).

### **HOW DOES CHRIST'S RESURRECTION BENEFIT US?**

- By his resurrection he has overcome death, so that he could make us share in the honour which he had obtained for us by his death.  
(Rom 4:25; 1Cor 15:16-20; 1Pet 1:3-5)
- By his power we too are raised up to a new life. (Rom 6:5-11; Eph. 2:4-6; Col 3:1-4)
- Christ's resurrection is to us a sure pledge of our glorious resurrection.  
(Rom 8:11; 1Cor 15:12-23; Phil 3:20)
- We are given hope for our own resurrection.

## THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY (CCC 988-991)

- Christ's resurrected body is the pattern of our resurrected body. (Phil 3:20-21)
- "Resurrection of the dead" implies physicality.  
(Mt. 22:30-31; Lk. 14:14; 1Cor 15:52; 1Thess 4:16)
- "The redemption of our bodies" speaks of being renewed, restored, revitalised. (Rom 8:21-23)
- Jesus speaks of the resurrection as the coming forth of individuals out of their tombs.  
(Jn. 5:28-29)
- The Old Testament speaks of the resurrection as being physical:
  - *"And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake!"* (Dan 12:2)
  - *"For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another."* (Job 19:25-27)
  - *"When it was demanded, he quickly put out his tongue and courageously stretched forth his hands, and said nobly, "I got these from Heaven, and because of his laws I disdain them, and from him I hope to get them back again."* (2 Mac 7:10-11)

### EXPLORE!

- Explore with the candidates how they would you have felt if they were one of Jesus' disciples visiting the tomb and found it empty? Have they ever experienced a moment in their faith journey where doubt turned into belief or hope?
- Discuss the following statement with the candidates:  
'The evidence for Jesus' resurrection is so strong that nobody would question it except for two things: First, it is a very unusual event. And second, if you believe it happened, you have to change the way you live.'

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### The Resurrection — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. What does it mean when St. Paul says that without the Resurrection, our faith is in vain? (1Cor 15:12-19)
2. What does the resurrection of Jesus accomplish for believers?
3. Is it possible to have a Christian Faith without believing in the resurrection of the dead?
4. How does one practically live the Resurrection in their daily lives?
5. Why do you think the disciples didn't recognise Jesus after the Resurrection?
6. What did Jesus' Resurrection prove about His death on the cross?

## PRAYER

Psalm 22 and Psalm 47

**or**

Gospel Reflection:	Year A	Jn. 10:1-10
	Year B	Jn. 10:11-18
	Year C	Jn. 10:27-30

The following format will be used for all Gospel reflections:

- Read the text aloud.
- Pause for a minute's silence.
- Read the text aloud again.
- Ask everyone to pick a word or a phrase that struck them. They just say the word or phrase without comment or discussion.
- Read the text again.
- Ask those present to comment on their word or phrase. What struck them about it? Why/how is it speaking to them?
- Continue with the discussion.

The following questions may be helpful:

What does this mean to me?

How does it make me feel?

Did I find the text disturbing/hopeful/confusing?

What images of God emerge for me?

What do I think that God is saying in this text?

What impact does this have on my life?

## Scripture and Catechism Resources

### The Resurrection

#### Scripture

- Mt. 28:1-10 The angel of the Lord appears and declares Jesus has 'risen from the dead'.
- Mk. 16:5-7 "He has risen". Go and tell the disciples and Peter that he is going before them to Galilee. They will see him there.
- Lk 24:1-7 there was no body in the tomb.
- Lk. 24:13-49 On the Road to Emmaus, Jesus reveals his identity in the scriptures and the breaking of bread.
- Lk 24:36-40 "Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have".
- Luke 24:41-43 "Do you have anything to eat"?
- Jn. 11:25-26 Jesus declares, "I am the Resurrection and the Life".
- Jn. 12:23-26 Jesus speaks of the manner in which he will be glorified.
- Jn. 14:16 Jesus is the way, the truth and life and through Him, we come to the Father.
- 2 Tim 1:9-10 Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality
- Acts 9:1-7 Saul/Paul meets the risen Jesus on the road to Damascus (but the others couldn't see)
- Acts 4:33 The Apostles testify to the resurrection of Jesus through God's grace.
- Jn 20:19-20 Jesus appeared to them even though the doors were locked.
- 1 Cor 15:35-40 We have an earthly body and a heavenly body
- 1 Cor 15:42-44 t is raised a spiritual body"
- 1Cor 15:50-58) The victory of Christ over death conquers death.
- 2Cor 5:17 Christ is the new creation.
- Rom 6:5-7 We have a resurrection like Jesus ... so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with.
- Rom 8:10-11 God will give life to your mortal bodies because of the spirit who lives in you.
- Rom 10:9 We will be saved through faith in the power of God to raise Jesus from the dead.
- 1Thess 4:13-18 Since Jesus died and rose again, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.
- Phil 2:8-11 Through Jesus' humility and obedience, God raised him on high, to the glory of God the Father.
- Phil3:7-12 The desire to know Jesus through the power of his Resurrection.
- Col 3:1 Set your hearts on the things above, where Christ has been raised.
- 1Pet 1:3 God in his mercy raised Jesus from the dead, beyond the reach of change and decay.
- Rev. 1:17b-18a Jesus is the First and the Last. He is the "living one".

#### Catechism

- 638-653 The reality and meaning of Jesus' Resurrection which constitutes the confirmation of all Christ's works and teachings.
- 654 Through the Paschal Mystery, Christ liberates us from sin by his death, and by his Resurrection he opens for us the way to a new life; what it means to be witnesses to his resurrection.
- 988-996 Our resurrection, like Christ's, will be the work of the Most Holy Trinity.
- 992-1004 The last judgement day; who will rise, how they will rise; united with Christ in baptism.
- 1363-1364 The Paschal feast as a memorial of God's act of salvation.