

From The Pulpit

Jesus is nowhere visible. Yet today's Gospel tells us that Peter and John "saw and believed."

What did they see? Burial shrouds lying on the floor of an empty tomb. Maybe that convinced them that He hadn't been carted off by grave robbers, who usually stole the expensive burial linens and left the corpses behind.

But notice the repetition of the word "tomb"—seven times in nine verses. They saw the empty tomb and they believed what He had promised: that God would raise Him on the third day.

Chosen to be His "witnesses," today's First Reading tells us, the Apostles were "commissioned...to preach...and testify" to all that they had seen—from His anointing with the Holy Spirit at the Jordan to the empty tomb. More than their own experience, they were instructed in the mysteries of the divine economy, God's saving plan—to know how "all the prophets bear witness" to Him.

Now they could "understand the Scripture," could teach us what He had told them—that He was "the Stone which the builders rejected," which today's Psalm prophesies His Resurrection and exaltation.

We are the children of the apostolic witnesses. That is why we still gather early in the morning on the first day of every week to celebrate this feast of the empty tomb, give thanks for "Christ our life," as today's Epistle calls Him.

Baptized into His death and Resurrection, we live the heavenly life of the risen Christ, our lives "hidden with Christ in God." We are now His witnesses, too. But we testify to things we cannot see but only believe; we seek in earthly things what is above.

We live in memory of the Apostles' witness, like them eating and drinking with the risen Lord at the altar. And we wait in hope for what the Apostles told us would come—the day when we too "will appear with Him in glory."

Our sisters and brothers in East Africa urgently need your help

Unless the emergency food aid to the region is increased, many innocent men, women and children will die. That's why SCIAF, working with the Catholic Church on the ground, needs to get more life-saving help there fast – and you can make that possible.

We are strong in our faith and our belief that there is hope beyond these moments of darkness.

"Merciful Father, open our eyes to the plight of our sisters and brothers in Africa and teach us to share our daily bread with those who go hungry"



16th April 2017

EASTER SUNDAY

YEAR A

REGULAR MASS TIMES:

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Monday – Friday: 9.30am

Saturday: 9.30am & 5.30pm (Vigil)

Sunday: 10.00am, 12noon, 6.00pm

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION Mon – Fri: Before Morning Mass

Saturday: After 9.30am Mass & after Vigil Mass

ROSARY

Monday – Saturday: 9.00am Sunday: Before 10am Mass

FAIRTRADE

.ST BRIDE'S IS A FAIRTRADE PARISH



Morning Mass time change on Easter Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday: morning mass on these days will be at 9 o'clock, back to normal Thursday

At the Chrism Mass the bishop and priests of the diocese blessed three oils we use throughout the Church's Year: the oil of Chrism, the oil of Baptism & the oil of the sick. These sacred oils are use in the administration of the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Ordination and the Anointing of the Sick.

A Happy and Holy Easter from all at St Bride's to each and every one