

Sunday 12th April 2026. Easter 2 Benefice Holy
Communion Ampleforth

Last Sunday on Easter Day I stated that the Resurrection of Jesus was for all of us inaugurating His living presence among us today, and that He forever goes before us wherever we are going and meets us at our destination. Today in our readings we are given accounts of evidence of the resurrected life God gifts us in Jesus. St Peter proclaims, that God has “given us a new birth into a living hope, an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading, the outcome of faith, the salvation of our souls.”

In the Gospel, Jesus stands among the disciples and breathes the Holy Spirit on them and says, “Peace be with you” and doubting Thomas later says after his scepticism, “My Lord and my God!”

All these are example of the resurrected life we are offered. It is not just something that happened in history but a whole new way of living that we can claim. We don't need to wait for death to experience resurrection, but we can begin resurrection today by connecting to God which Resurrection allows us to do. Resurrection happens every time we love someone even though they were not very loving to us because at that moment we have been brought to new life. Every time we decide to trust God and begin again, even after our repeated failures, we are resurrected. Every time we refuse to become negative, cynical, or bitter, we are experiencing the Risen Christ. We don't have to wait for it to come later, Resurrection is always possible *now*.

The resurrection is not Jesus's private miracle; it's the new shape of reality. It's the new shape of the world. It's filled with grace. It's filled with possibility. It's filled with newness, AS Jesus promises when He says, “Behold, I

make all things new”. Neither is the resurrection just ultimate miracle story to prove the divinity of Christ, something that makes Him the winner. It’s something that allows us all to be winners. No exceptions! It offers something that means there’s no eternal death for anybody because all are invited to draw upon this infinite Source, this infinite Mystery, this infinite Love, this infinite Possibility. Spiritually speaking, we live in a world of abundance, of infinity, but most of us walk around operating in a world of scarcity because we hoard it—Spirit, Love, Life—to ourselves. We hoard grace and we hoard mercy. We don’t allow ourselves to be conduits through which grace, justice and mercy pour into the world. The only way we can hold onto grace, mercy, love, joy—or any spiritual gift—is to give them away consciously and intentionally. If we stop acting as a conduit, we lose them. That’s why there are so many sad, bitter, and angry people who do not follow Jesus are disconnected from God’s love. Instead, they choose death and contribute to negativity, cynicism, anger, and the oppression of other races and religions, when the fascist poses as the patriot, terrorism and hatred hide behind a false religion and fellow human beings are promoted as sub-human to be destroyed.

Nevertheless, St Peter tells us, “God has given us a new birth into a living hope, an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading, the outcome of faith, the salvation of our souls.”

Do you seek that? Do you seek to realise that because of the Resurrection, Love has you. Love *is* you, and in your deep need for love, you can recognize love everywhere else?

If you do seek this Resurrection life, then realise that you already are what you are seeking, and you can say with Thomas, when the Risen Jesus encounters you “My Lord and my God.”.

And our Risen Lord will reply, "Peace be with you,"

Thanks be to God. Amen.