



THINK ON THESE THINGS..... (our contributor this morning is Brian Eyles)

Reading: Mark 16:1 – 5; 8

After the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices to go and anoint the body of Jesus. Very early on Sunday morning, at sunrise, they went to the tomb, On the way they said to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' (It was a very large stone). Then they looked up and saw that the stone had already been rolled back, so they entered the tomb, where they saw a young man sitting on the right, wearing a white robe - they were alarmed. They went out and ran from the tomb, distressed and terrified. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

Reflection:

In their attempt to foresee what may happen when this Pandemic is over some have reminded us of disasters as bad as we are living, or worse. There was the Black Death which by 1349 wiped out 50% of the population. There was 1945 when we were so poverty stricken we had to rely on the USA. Such disasters may help us to see the Pandemic with a fresh perspective.

The Bible, however, has its own disaster stories. The Flood, the famine that sent Hebrews begging to the Egyptians, the sacking of Jerusalem and deportation to Babylon, and the Crucifixion of Jesus. The Gospels tell us what a traumatic shock it must have been. This terrible disaster meant the followers were scared to meet except behind locked doors. There were so often afraid. They needed courage: courage to do what they could: ask for the Lord's body to bury it, courage to go to the tomb, courage to go into it. In Mark's Gospel the last chapter we are told twice how followers were alarmed: 'They went out.....distressed....they were afraid.'

In the face of their awful disaster what courage those first disciple needed!

Breath-Prayer: Lord by the power and strength of the Holy Spirit equip us with courage, no matter what we may be afraid of.