**Morning Praise @ Home 23rd April 2023**

**Opening prayer**

Blessed are you, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have blessed us with every spiritual blessing; enable us by your power to be true to our calling and live holy and blameless lives before you all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen**

**Confession** Let us admit to God the sin which always confronts us.

**Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent.** **Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.** **Renew a right spirit within us** **and restore us to the joy of your salvation,** **through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen** cf Psalm 51

**Absolution** May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins, and restore us in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### Bible Readings 1 Peter 1: 17 – 23 Luke 24: 13 – 35

**Reflection**

*‘Oh, how foolish you are…’ (v.25)*

Do you feel the mutual exasperation in this story? When the disciples meet the risen Jesus, they cannot believe that he does not know the news. Indeed, they are so surprised that they have to stop walking to be able to tell him. But the risen Jesus is even more direct back. ‘Aaagh’ might be a good translation of ‘Oh!’ (v.25). He then describes them as being ‘without understanding’, ‘obtuse’, ‘dull’, ‘slow’. ‘Dumb’ might be a good colloquial translation. He is not mincing his words.

I am grateful that we have glimpses of the exasperation of Jesus, including the risen Jesus. As a theological educator and a parish priest, I experience lots of exasperation … as indeed to my students and parishioners too at times! Sometimes we are just slow to ‘get it’. And while I do not excuse either my own bad temper or pomposity, a little plain speaking together might help the Church to be a more honest institution, as well as a more effective one…

But Jesus does not leave it there. Loving patience is the undergirding value and he works with these dopey disciples till they begin to ‘get it’ and then there is that unforgettable moment of recognition and reconciliation.

Plain talking and deep loving don’t have to be opposites. ‘Speaking the truth in love’ can be a cover for verbal abuse. Or it can be a moment of mutual love in Christ. **Amen**

**Affirmation of faith**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

**We believe and trust in him. This is the faith of the Church.**

**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

**Prayers of intercession**

Dear Lord we are privileged to call you Father, we ask that you forgive our foolish ways and re-clothe us in our rightful minds so we may in deeper reverence praise you.

As we walk the path of our daily lives we ask that we recognise that you are there walking alongside us and that you open our eyes to the needs of those around us.

We pray for your world that there is an end to war and suffering. We think of the people of Ukraine and Sudan and pray for peace.

We pray for all those who minister to your flock. We give thanks for all who are training to join the ministry team and lift Ruth and Philip to you and ask for your blessing and guidance on their lives.

We pray for those who work with the poor and marginalised and we especially pray for our friends in The Mango Tree. We give thanks for Consolata and her team that through their lives and actions relief is brought to many young children in Kenya and Tanzania.

We pray for our church here in Burton and lift to you all those who are in hospital, hospices, nursing homes or who are ill at home. In a moment of silence we name them in our hearts.

From our prayer diary today we pray for all the members of the Mothers’ Union at Burton and for Anne Parsons and Ann Rudd who lead them.

This week we will be praying for some of the younger members of our church, in particular TBY (The Burton Youth) that they may grow in faith and as followers of Jesus. We also pray for their leaders that you give them strength and wisdom.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

**The Lord’s Prayer** As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

***Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come,******Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen***

**Closing prayer**

God give you grace to become the people He has called you to be, that you may live and work to his praise and glory, and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us and remain with us always. **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen**