

‘THE ROAD TO EMMAUS & THE LAST SUPPER’
3rd Sunday of Easter ~ 26 April 2020



The Supper at Emmaus | Diego Velázquez, 1620 | public domain | modified by www.stjosephsbrackenridge.com

GOSPEL OF LUKE 24:13–35

We enter into the spirit of today’s Gospel with the opening lines:

*“Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way
to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem,
and they were talking together about all that had happened.
Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side;
but something prevented them from recognising him.*

He said to them,

‘What matters are you discussing as you walk along?’

They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas answered him,

*‘You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know
the things that have been happening there these last few days.’*

‘What things?’

he asked. ‘

Jesus walks with them in their pain and doubt
as they share their thoughts and feelings with him.
We notice that the invitation comes from Jesus.

During the COVID-19 Pandemic,
Jesus invites us to share thoughts and feelings with him.

[We pause for a moment and share with Jesus.]

After their sharing, Jesus opens up the scriptures as we are told:

'Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.'

The initiative comes back to them – they invite Jesus to stay with them.

Jesus accepts.

We too invite Jesus to stay with us. We don't demand his presence.

We do not try to confine or manipulate Jesus. Jesus is free.

EUCCHARIST

The Gospel continues:

'Now while he was with them at the table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight.'

In today's Gospel, Jesus offers the Eucharist in a room at their village,

This Eucharist links us back to the First Eucharist at the Last Supper.

Today as we livestream this Eucharistic celebration from our parish church, we reflect on the First Eucharist, the night before Jesus died.

ICON

We turn to this impressive icon of the Last Supper that has been gifted to our parish.

It is placed at the foot of the cross.

An icon is not painted in the western sense.

It is 'written'. It is prayed. There is the spirituality of its preparation and presentation.

In the Gospel we hear:

'Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

As we gaze prayerfully at this icon,

we imagine how the heart and spirit of an iconographer moves within, as the sacred story is "written".

We gaze at Jesus in the icon for a moment –

his direction of his gaze,
his right hand and fingers,
the bread in his left hand.

We look forward to the day when Murhaf will lead us deeper into this icon.

The two disciples needed to share with other disciples,

the story of their spiritual encounter with Jesus:

- Their conversation with Jesus
- Their witnessing of God's Word moving within their hearts
- Their recognition of Jesus in the Eucharist.

Within this time of uncertainty during the COVID-19 pandemic we are called to share with others our spiritual encounters with Jesus:

- Our conversations with Jesus
- Our witnessing of God's Word moving within our hearts
- Our recognition of Jesus in the Eucharist.

Let pause again before the foot of the cross as we gaze at the story written.

[Pause]

Thank you Murhaf and Rim for this gift of Eucharistic spirituality.

Let us pray.

Fr Gerry

Readings: <https://universalis.com/Australia/20200426/mass.htm>
[Mass for the Third Sunday of Easter - 26 April 2020 on our YouTube Channel](#)



Icon written by Murhaf Obeid and used with permission