

From the Chaplain...

Something that this Sunday's Gospel (Luke 24. 36-48) and the reading from Acts (3. 12-19) both highlight is the very different conception of 'witness' from the one many of us take for granted today. When Jesus says to the disciples that 'you are witnesses of these things', he means that their calling is to affirm the way God has kept his promise that all people will someday know redemption. Thus in Acts, Peter proclaims that 'we are witnesses' to the fulfilment of this promise through Christ's death and resurrection (3.13). What is striking here is that in empowering someone who cannot walk, Peter is emphatic that this miraculous intervention is purely a form of witness: in no way, he says, should it be taken as a product of 'our own power or piety' (v.12). In both passages, then, there's a notable absence of self-expression in the act of witness. Jesus's witness to his own resurrection is anything but personally triumphant: one need only recall the earthy detail of him eating a piece of broiled fish to recognize the essential humility of his approach (Lk 24.43). And when he tells the disciples that they are witnesses, he cannot fail to know that he's conferring this huge responsibility upon people who remain more than a little vague about what it all means. But clearly this is precisely why Jesus has chosen them, and the essential characteristics of their witness – the tentativeness, the openness, the selfless wonder at something barely comprehended but essential to live by and share – all this lies at the heart of how we, too, are called to respond to the resurrection story in our own lives.

This Sunday we are fortunate to welcome the Adult Rodolfus Choral Course as our visiting choir singing the service. We also welcome again as guest preacher the Rt Revd Michael Doe, who has proved such a good friend to the Chapel over the past year. Please note that due to the London Marathon, there will be no 11.00am Eucharist on Sunday, 21 April. We will instead gather at 5.00pm that day for a service of Choral Evensong.

Yours faithfully,
Robert

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