

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR B) Sunday 14 April 2024

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

EATING FISH

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Introducing the Gospel

Jesus eats with the disciples (Luke 24:36b-48)

In Luke's Gospel the risen Jesus had first made himself known to two disciples going to Emmaus. Those disciples went straight back to Jerusalem to tell the others. While they were talking about this in Jerusalem, Jesus stood among them. The key to this second narrative about the risen Jesus meeting with his disciples concerns the way in which they eventually recognise and accept his risen presence with them. Jesus was recognised as more than a ghost through one of the very ordinary events of life, eating fish. Here after the resurrection is clear continuity with the way things were before the crucifixion.

Our image to stimulate reflection on Luke's account of the risen Jesus eating with his disciples is *eating fish*.

Core extract from the Gospel (Luke 24.36, 40-43; for reflection throughout the week)

While the eleven and their companions were talking about what they had heard,
Jesus himself stood among them and said to them,

‘Peace be with you.’

And when he had said this,
he showed them his hands and his feet.

While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering,
he said to them,

‘Have you anything here to eat?’

They gave him a piece of broiled fish,
and he took it and ate in their presence.

Gospel prayer (for use through the week)

Risen Lord,
you made yourself known to the disciples
in the upper room.
Come among us now
and make yourself known to us,
as we share in your feast;
for you are our God,
now and for ever.
Amen.

READING NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Luke 24.36b-48

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.'

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME

Dwelling with the text (Luke 24: 36b-48)

Begin exploring John's account of the risen Jesus standing among his disciples and eating fish by employing the SIFT approach of Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking. You may find that one of these approaches comes easier to you than the others. But it is worth trying all four.

- What details in the passage catch your attention (Sensing)?
- What big ideas in the passage spark in your mind (Intuition)?
- What most touches your heart in the passage (Feeling)?
- What most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage (Thinking)?

Thinking and talking

Identify topics within the passage that can get you thinking and talking. Here are some ideas to get you started.

- What were the disciples talking about when Jesus stood among them?
- What was the significance of Jesus' greeting, 'Peace be with you'?
- What is the importance of Jesus eating fishing with this disciples?
- What are the disciples commissioned to do as a consequence of their experiences?
- What does the narrative say to us today?

Using your Bible

Explore the theme of Jesus sharing fish with his disciples and with the crowds.

- John 21: 6-13
- Mark 6: 37-44
- Mark 8: 5-9

Explore a parallel narrative in John's Gospel.

- John 20: 19-23

Explore Luke's further account of the risen Jesus eating with his disciples.

- Acts 10: 39-43

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Exploring online

Widen your exploration of Luke's account of the risen Jesus standing among his disciples and eating fish by looking up some of the following themes and others of your own choosing.

- Images of Jesus eating fish
- The sign of the fish
- Commentaries on Luke 24: 42-43

Drawing on experience

The image to stimulate reflection on Luke's account of the disciples' encounter with Jesus is *eating fish*. Draw on your own experience of eating fish with your friends. For example:

- Have you ever eaten freshly caught fish at the seaside with friends?
- Have you cooked fish for a special meal with friends?
- Have you memories of eating with friends in a fish restaurant?

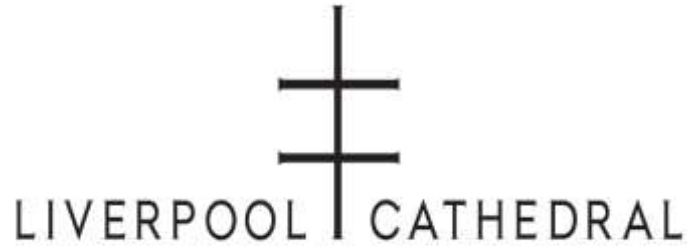
What have you learned about the importance of eating fish with your friends?

Creating and making

This section offers pointers to some creative activities that may be inspired by Luke's account of the risen Jesus eating fish with his disciples or by the image of eating fish.

- Create a collage of fish dishes.
- Make a poster illustrating the risen Jesus eating fish with his disciples.
- Arrange a table set for a special meal of fish with friends.
- Create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the theme of the risen Jesus eating fish with his disciples or on the image of eating fish.

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EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

Our invitation then is for you to share your reflections, prayers and photos of your creative work with the Cathedral by emailing them to smc.lesliefrancis@gmail.com.

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales and the St Christopher's College Trust.



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