



This Sunday's Gospel Reading 3rd Sunday of Easter Year A
(Luke 24: 13-35)

On the first day of the week, two of the disciples of Jesus were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognising him. And he said to them, 'What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?' And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?' And he said to them, 'What things?' And they said to him, 'Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.' And he said to them, 'O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?' And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, but they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, for it is towards evening and the day is now far spent.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognised him. And he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?' And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the Eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Prayer One

The Sign of the Cross

Let us remember that everything we do is
In the name of the Father, and of
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Reflection:

On 27th April 2004 Pope Benedict beatified Pope John Paul II. This is the second-last step before somebody becomes a Saint. He was canonized (made a saint) by Pope Francis on 30th Sept 2013.

Our theme this week is realisation and it is based on this Sunday's Gospel in which two disciples met Jesus on the road to Emmaus, but didn't realise who He was immediately.

Realising what is important in life is vital. Realising where we see God in the world around us, is even more so.

When somebody is beatified and canonised it means that the Church realises that they were a person of great holiness who did amazing things during their lives. It is also a recognition that the person is in heaven and that they are praying for us.

Pope John Paul II lived from 1920-2005 and was Pope from 1978 until he died. He had the third longest pontificate in history and is remembered as one of the most influential Pope's ever.

Pope John Paul II had a special gift for working with young people. As a young priest in Poland, he used to take groups of the young people from his parish walking and kayaking. Then, as the Pope he established the World Youth Days and invited millions of young people to meet together with him every few years.

One of the many things he said during his time as Pope was this: *'We are not the sum of our weaknesses and failures. We are the sum of the Father's love for us and the real capacity to become the image of his son!'*



Final Prayer:

Loving Father,

Help us to be inspired by people like Saint John Paul II and may we always remember how much you love and care for us. May we always recognise in ourselves the great gifts you have given us and the great things you have done for us.

Saint John Paul II... Pray for us!

**We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

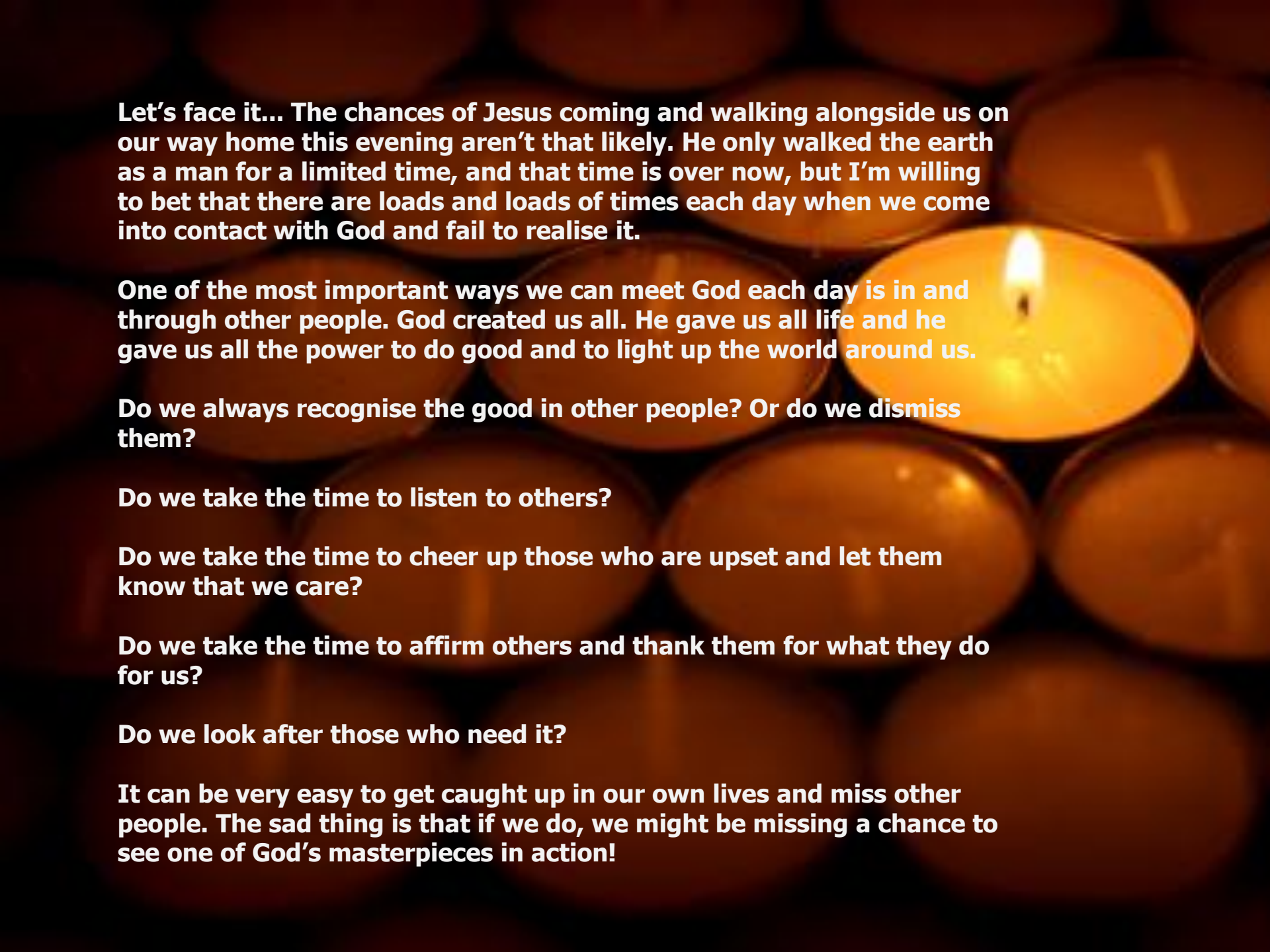
Prayer Two

The Sign of the Cross

Let us remember that everything we do is
In the name of the Father, and of
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Reflection:

In this week's Gospel reading we heard the story of the Disciples on the road to Emmaus. Jesus came and walked next to them but they failed to realise who he was.



Let's face it... The chances of Jesus coming and walking alongside us on our way home this evening aren't that likely. He only walked the earth as a man for a limited time, and that time is over now, but I'm willing to bet that there are loads and loads of times each day when we come into contact with God and fail to realise it.

One of the most important ways we can meet God each day is in and through other people. God created us all. He gave us all life and he gave us all the power to do good and to light up the world around us.

Do we always recognise the good in other people? Or do we dismiss them?

Do we take the time to listen to others?

Do we take the time to cheer up those who are upset and let them know that we care?

Do we take the time to affirm others and thank them for what they do for us?

Do we look after those who need it?

It can be very easy to get caught up in our own lives and miss other people. The sad thing is that if we do, we might be missing a chance to see one of God's masterpieces in action!



Final Prayer:

Loving Father,

In this week where we think about realisation, help us to never miss the good in other people and help us never to disregard them or treat them unfairly. Help us to build a world where all people are loved and valued and where it is realised that they are made in your image.

**We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Prayer Three

The Sign of the Cross

Let us remember that everything we do is
In the name of the Father, and of
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Reflection: *In this week where we think about the theme of realisation, we should take a little time to ask ourselves if we always realise what is good in ourselves.*



St. Catherine of Sienna once said:

'If you were who God meant you to be, you would set the world on fire!'

We are all called to set the world on fire. Not literally, obviously! But by making a difference in whatever way we can. In short, by loving others, and by doing good.

St. Catherine's point is that we don't need to be rich, powerful, strong, popular or anything like that to set the world on fire. We don't need to go chasing after things that are *out there*. But rather, we need to remember that we have the ability to do amazing things simple in what God has given us and in the way that God has made us.

God made us to set the world on fire simply by being who we are in the best way that we can.

And so the question for today is this:

**Do we always recognise what is good in ourselves?
Or do we sometimes doubt and then go chasing after
other things to prove something to ourselves?**



Final Prayer

Loving Father,

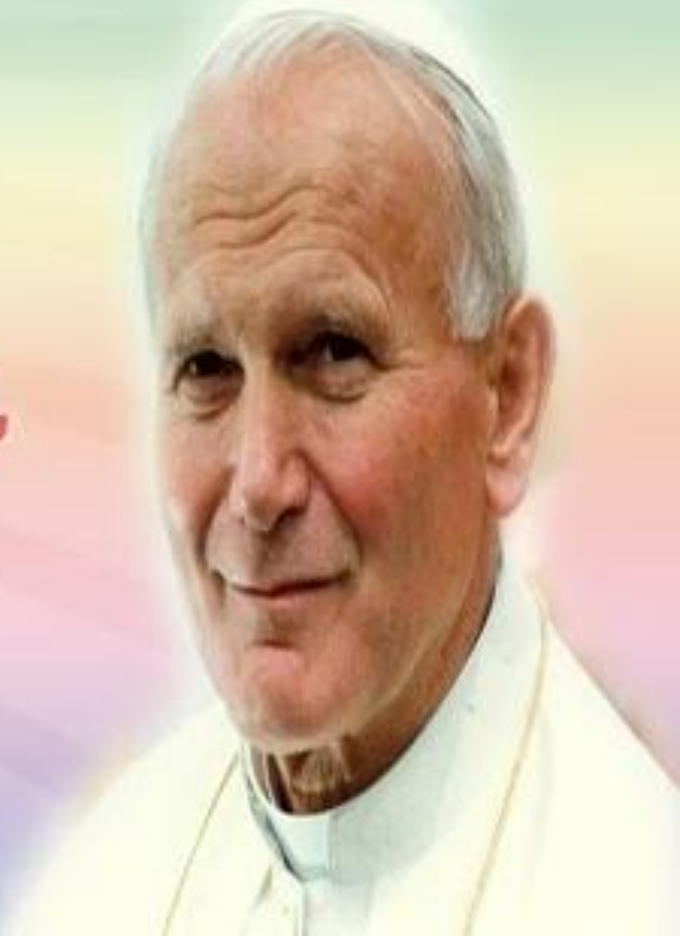
**Help us to set the world on fire simply by
being the people you meant us to be.
Help us to remember always that we are
gifted, talented, beautiful and rich in
your eyes.**

**We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**



Final Thought...

**The future starts today,
not tomorrow.
- Pope John Paul II**



Next weeks theme: Fullness of Life