

# Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish **Bulletin for Teens**

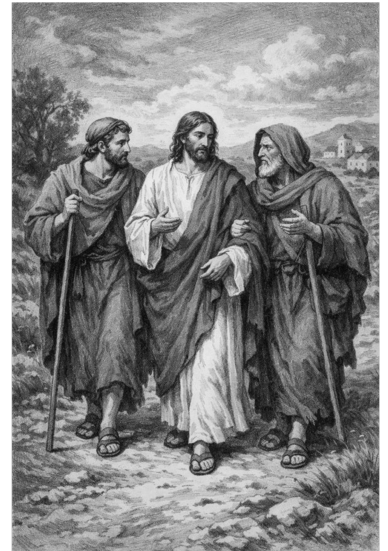


## Do you recognise Him?

Sunday the 19th of April 2026, Third Sunday of Easter, Year A

### **Gospel: Luke 24:13-35**

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 him 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. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.' Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.



When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. 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. 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?' They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

### **Do you recognise Jesus walking with you?**

At the beginning of the Gospel, two disciples are leaving Jerusalem. This isn't a casual walk - it's symbolic. They are walking away from everything they believed about Jesus. We might not physically walk away, but we can drift from faith because it feels irrelevant, question things we were taught growing up or feel

that God doesn't show up when we need Him. The disciples said, "We had hoped..." which is basically saying "We thought this would turn out differently." That moment of disappointment is often where real faith begins - not in certainty, but in honesty.

Jesus doesn't appear in a dramatic, overwhelming way. He joins them in conversation, not perfection. He listens before He teaches. He lets them express their confusion and doubt. He doesn't judge them for their lack of understanding. We can feel that we need to have everything sorted out before we can come into a relationship with God. But the Gospel shows the opposite: Jesus meets us in our questions, not after them. Faith isn't about pretending, it is about being real.

Jesus explains the Scriptures to them, helping them see a bigger picture. But they still don't recognise Him right away. Spiritual understanding grows, often slowly, and with setbacks. When we are used to fast answers this can feel frustrating.

God doesn't only show up in big, dramatic moments. He can be found in the simple and the everyday. He is often found in conversations, acts of kindness, quiet moments and community. You don't have to wait for a 'huge spiritual experience' to encounter God.

Once they recognise Jesus, the disciples immediately turn around and go back to Jerusalem. Same road. Same distance. But now a totally different direction. Encountering Jesus doesn't erase your past. It doesn't magically fix everything. But it does reorient your life. This might look like choosing hope instead of giving up, re-engaging with faith after drifting, seeking reconciliation after sinning or seeing your life with new meaning.

You don't need to have it all together. Doubt and faith can exist at the same time. Jesus walks with you - even when you don't recognise Him.

## ***A poem: Footprints in the Sand***



One night I dreamed a dream.  
I was walking along the beach with my Lord.  
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.  
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,  
One belonging to me and one to my Lord.

After the last scene of my life flashed before me,  
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.  
I noticed that at many times along the path of my life,  
especially at the very lowest and saddest times,  
there was only one set of footprints.

This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.  
"Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,  
You'd walk with me all the way.  
But I noticed that during the saddest and most  
troublesome times of my life,  
there was only one set of footprints.  
I don't understand why, when I needed You the most, You  
would leave me."

He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never  
leave you  
Never, ever, during your trials and testings.  
When you saw only one set of footprints,  
It was then I carried you."