

There have been some big occasions inside and outside churches over the past few days. They are as much about you as they are a memorial of the last events in Jesus' earthly life.

On Holy Thursday, we remembered how Jesus instituted Communion at the Last Supper and humbly washed the apostles' feet. That night, Judas betrayed Him.

On Good Friday morning, you may have joined me in the Way of the Cross, a public procession commemorating Jesus' journey to Calvary, with our sins on His shoulders. The Good Friday services in churches solemnly reflected on the Passion, Cross, and Death of Jesus Christ.

The Archdiocese recently hosted the exhibit, "The Man of the Shroud," a replica of the Shroud of Turin. The display moved many visitors. The Shroud is an icon of the wounds of Christ, who died out of love for each person in human history—He died for you.

What is more marvellous, Christ is now risen! In the gospel message of Easter Sunday, we see the Lord's body still bearing the wounds made in His hands and side by the nails and the spear. But now, they are glorified as proof of God's victory over death and sin.

Jesus goes forth to meet His disciples and every man, woman, and child throughout the ages, including our own. He comes and shares with us His joy, His peace, and the Holy Spirit. He shares His very self "in the breaking of the bread" in Holy Communion.

We will hear during this Easter season how Jesus revealed Himself to the disciples in many touching ways. At the Easter Vigil, we hear Matthew's account of the discovery of the empty tomb and, on Easter morning, of the meeting with Mary Magdalene.

All the resurrection accounts hint at the reversal of the tragedy of Jesus' death. The ritual of mourning and acts of respect toward the body of Jesus by the faithful women turn to perplexity when they discover the empty tomb. Amazement follows at the angelic message. Finally, awesome joy erupts when at last Jesus comes to meet them.

The promise of God's power has been realized. Still, the story appears unbelievable to the disciples who thought the resurrection would happen only at the end of time. Peter had learned that Jesus' surprising sayings regularly came true. So on the first Easter, he marvelled at the linen grave cloths but did not at first come to faith. That had to await his personal encounter with the Risen One, as it had to for you.

John the Evangelist suggests what this encounter means for us as he tells of Mary Magdalene's meeting with Jesus. The risen Lord appears both *different* from the one Mary knew (she thought He was the gardener), yet *the same* person who knows her by name ("Mary!"). Jesus told Mary that, henceforth, she and others share a new relationship with God, who has become "your Father and your God."

Jesus commissioned Mary to take the good news of the resurrection to the Apostles who would take it to the world. Jesus asks the same of you today. Jesus has bought you victory over death at the price of His life. You must not ignore this or let familiarity dull how radical it is!

My Easter wish is that you experience anew, and discover fresh ways to share, the be a "missionary disciple" who has met the Risen Lord and is eager to share your experience with your family, friends, and neighbours.