



“You are witnesses of these things.”

The case unfolding in this Sunday's Gospel is part of a larger story that gives the overwhelming events of Holy Week and Easter a surprisingly relatable, realistic dimension. Luke gives us a risen Jesus who not only appears, talks and teaches, but He is also a Jesus who is unmistakably human. He even makes it clear he's not a mirage, a phantom or a figment of their imagination. This is nothing supernatural. He is real. "A ghost," he explains patiently, "does not have flesh and bones." (It sounds so startling, coming from the Son of God, I have to wonder if he actually said that with a straight face.)



If that weren't enough, it turns out the resurrected Christ has worked up an appetite. "Have you anything here to eat?" he asks. The apostles must have been flabbergasted (and, maybe, embarrassed that they didn't offer Him something first). It is a remarkable scene in so many ways – vivid, tactile, a little awkward.

But it also conveys something that is vitally important in the post-Resurrection appearances. Passages like this serve to tell us, again, that these aren't flukes, daydreams, or isolated cases of someone having too much wine and imagining he spotted a friend walking along the road. The Gospel assures us: A lot of people saw Jesus, heard Him, even touched Him.

Read the Scriptures and you can't escape a recurring theme. Again and again, Christ appears to groups – the women outside the tomb, the couple walking to Emmaus, the believers gathered in the Upper Room. Just as He tells them in this Sunday's Scripture, "You are witnesses of these things," He is almost attentively, thoughtfully, building the case for His Resurrection. It's as if He is saying, "Take notes. Write this down. You all can corroborate this. You are my witnesses." And we come to realize He is not just speaking to those in the room. He is speaking to all of us, across the centuries. In our way, we all bear witness to the life, death and resurrection of Christ, and testify to it every day with our words, our actions, our choices. We continue what He began.

But, significantly, we don't do it alone.

These appearances remind us that Christianity involves both communion and community. It is lived among others. Jesus first sent His followers out two-by-two to preach the Good News. When He rose from the dead, He appeared repeatedly to multiple people at a time. And today, the great work that He began continues with communities of believers.

The message is clear: The Good News we hold in our hearts is not something meant to be kept to ourselves. It's meant to be lived, practiced, shared with others.

Christ's great work in the world – the work of saving souls, healing wounds, opening eyes, inspiring hope – is to be lived and spread everywhere. The fundamental message of the Resurrection is heard in Christ's first word to His followers: "Peace." What He conveyed to them is now our charge to convey to others. We need to spread the word.

In these weeks after Easter, as the flowers fade and the chocolate eggs get eaten and we get accustomed once again to "Alleluias" ringing through the air, it can be easy to take for granted the splendour of this moment. We shouldn't. Pentecost is coming, and fire will fall and another thunderous event will remind us of the Church's first days and the astounding tale we have to tell.

We are Easter people! This Sunday's Scripture serves to keep that idea before us – and help us remember this beautiful truth: We are all witnesses of these things.

The Church-24 Survey

Since 2020 the Catholic Church has conducted two surveys on churchgoing during Covid-19. The data showed how people reacted to issues such as the closure of the Church buildings, online worship and the stress of ministering with the new changes. Results were reported over many months in journals and religious press.

Now in 2024 we seek to update our understanding on the same topics. As with previous surveys, *Church-24* invites you to reflect on the big questions and relate your experiences of church life since the pandemic. It should take 15-20 minutes.

This survey is for all people, you don't have to be a regular churchgoer to take part.

Further details on the Church-24 survey can be found at <https://www.yorks.ac.uk/the-church-24-survey/>. Please pass on the link to others.

If you need to pause during the survey, you can do so, and return to the survey using the same link within a week. The survey will run for several months and we will give updates on progress reports on the survey webpage. Your help is greatly appreciated with this project.

Children's Corner: In the Gospel Today

The disciples are frightened when Jesus appears. Jesus shows them his hands and feet, lets them touch him and eats with them. Now they know that there is nothing to be worried about - it really is Jesus!

How did the disciples feel?



Write down every other letter in the spiral to find the correct answer. When the disciples realised it was Jesus they were full of

I am so happy that you are here with me, Jesus. Help me to be a good witness to you. Help me to show by the way I love other people that you are alive. Amen.

We Believe



Congratulations to the children of Scoil Bhríde who were confirmed on Thursday. Thank you to the office admin and confirmation team, Pat Cummins, Margaret Hill and Aine Jordan, to our sacristan on the day, Larry Kelly. The flowers were beautiful, thanks to Dolores O'Leary. Thanks to our visiting priests Fr Eoin and Fr Adrian, and Deacon Michael who made it very special!

Adult Discussion Group

Our Adult Discussion Group will meet on **Wednesday 17th April @7pm**

Topic for discussion this week: *How do we become a Christian (officially)? Come along to enjoy one session, or all sessions.*

Parish Prayer Group:

Every Tuesday in the Jubilee Room at 8pm.
 1st & 3rd Tuesday ; Prayer Meeting
 2nd Tuesday ; Led Holy Hour with Adoration
 4th Tuesday ; Holy Mass

Parish Meetings in the Pastoral Centre

Baptism Team—Wednesday 17th April at 7.30pm. This meeting is for parents of babies to be baptised in May.
PPC Meeting —Thursday 18th April at 7pm in the Jubilee Room.
Teen Hope—Friday 19th April. The teenagers will meet from 7pm-830pm. Chat, prayers, fun.... And Pizza!!



Our Annual Heritage Parish Pilgrimage will take place on **Saturday 22nd June** to Faughart and surrounding areas. We will update you when we have finalised the details.



Over the past few weeks we have experienced some damage to our shrines and altars within the church. In light of this, we have decided to upgrade our security and are installing CCTV cameras at the moment.

We pray for our recently deceased;
 Brigid Tiernan Frank Furlong
 David Cashin Gerry Counihan
 Always loved, never forgotten



Mass intentions for the week

Saturday	Clare Egan Eileen Hughes (1st Anniv) John Kane PJ & Jean O'Farrell George Farmer Simon Hilliard Christine Downey (2nd Anniv) Sanela Angel (Intention)
Sunday	Nancy Purtill (1st Anniv) Billy Maher Paddy Freyne (1st Anniv) Phyllis & Jim Slevin Maureen & Bridgie O'Reilly Mary McMenamin Nancy Heaney Patricia Balfe (MM) Luisa Mauro
Monday	Tommy Heffernan Thursday Christina Flynn Friday Anne Gilhooley Terry Keaney

CURRENT SCHEDULE *
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday:
 Mass at 10am preceded by the Rosary at 9.30am, Church closes at 5pm
Monday: Area Mass at 7.30pm
Wednesday: Liturgy of the Word at 10am
Saturday: Church opens at 10am
Vigil Mass at 6pm
Sunday Mass at 10.30am
1st Saturday of the month— 10am Mass followed by confessions until 11am
Last Tuesday of the month-Prayer Group Mass 8pm, all welcome
Bank Holidays: Mass 11am only
 All services available on www.blanchardstownparish.ie/webcam Also on Phoenix Radio— 92.5FM
Eucharistic Adoration Tue & Fri 10.30am-5pm
Blanchardstown Area evening Mass 7.30pm
Mon: Blanchardstown
Tues & Thurs: Castleknock
Wednesday: Mulhuddart **Friday:** Corduff
 * Please note that our standard schedule may be subject to some change in the current circumstances.

EASTER DUES ENVELOPES

If you did not receive an Easter Dues envelope and would like to contribute to the Priests of the Parish, please take one from the tables around the Church, or you can donate on the parish website. A sincere thank you to all who have returned their Easter Dues. Your continued generosity is very much appreciated. *If you are not a regular contributor to the Parish and would like to do so, please leave your name and contact details in the Sacristy or the Office.*



St. Vincent de Paul:
 The outdoor monthly

collection for St Brigid's will be taken up this weekend at all masses.