



Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe, a former Master General of the Dominicans, suggested a few years ago that the long Gospel reading about the two disciples on the road to Emmaus had a lot to teach us about the new evangelisation called for by the Church. He said that it is about the apostasy of the two disciples. Incidentally, many Catholic and Orthodox believers have maintained that Cleopas, one of the two men, was a brother of St Joseph.

The two disciples were disillusioned and desolate. Puzzled and discouraged, they were unable to see any liberation in the death, the empty tomb, or the message about the appearances of Jesus to the others. In their eyes, either the mission of Jesus had entirely failed, or else they, themselves, had been badly deceived in their expectations about the Lord. Symbolically, they were moving away from Jerusalem. They were like many modern Christians who drift away from the Church because of scandals and other negative experiences.

Cardinal Radcliffe felt that it was significant that when Jesus joined them, he walked with them, away



ACCOMPANYING THE DISILLUSIONED

from Jerusalem. Instead of suggesting that they turn back or admonishing them, he listened to what they had to say in an empathic, non-critical way. When it seemed appropriate, he referred to scripture texts which might help to make sense of their confusing experiences. As the two downcast disciples journeyed with Jesus on the road, their hearts began to burn as they came to understand with their minds the truth about the suffering Messiah. At the meal in Emmaus, they experienced the power of the Resurrection in their hearts. As a result, they immediately turned

back to Jerusalem, not because they were told to do so by Jesus, but because they themselves wanted to. Believers have a lot to learn from this story about accompanying the non-church goers of our day in a non-judgmental, sensitive and helpful way. Here is a prayer of Pope Benedict XVI.

“Lord Jesus Christ, pilgrim of Emmaus, you make yourself close to us for love, even if, at times, discouragement and sadness prevent us from discovering your presence. You are the flame that revives our faith. You are the light that purifies our hope. You are the force that stirs our charity. Teach us to recognise you in the word, in the house and on the Table where the Bread of Life is shared, and in generous service of our suffering neighbour. Amen.”

— Pat Collins

come again in glory / to judge the living and the dead / and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, / who proceeds from the Father and the Son, / who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, / who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. / I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins / and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead / and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The priest introduces the Prayer of the Faithful.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), ...

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive, O Lord, we pray, these offerings of your exultant Church, and, as you have given her

cause for such great gladness, grant also that the gifts we bring may bear fruit in perpetual happiness. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. ...

After the Consecration

The mystery of faith.

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

THE COMMUNION RITE

Behold the Lamb of God, ...

Lord, I am not worthy ...

Communion Antiphon

(Lk 24:35)

The disciples recognised the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

Look with kindness upon your people, O Lord, and grant, we pray, that those you were pleased to renew by eternal mysteries may attain in their flesh the incorruptible glory of the resurrection. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Reflection

Recall when sharing your story with another helped you to recover from a disappointment.



Lesson

‘I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me.’



Prayer

‘Show us, Lord, the path of life.’

