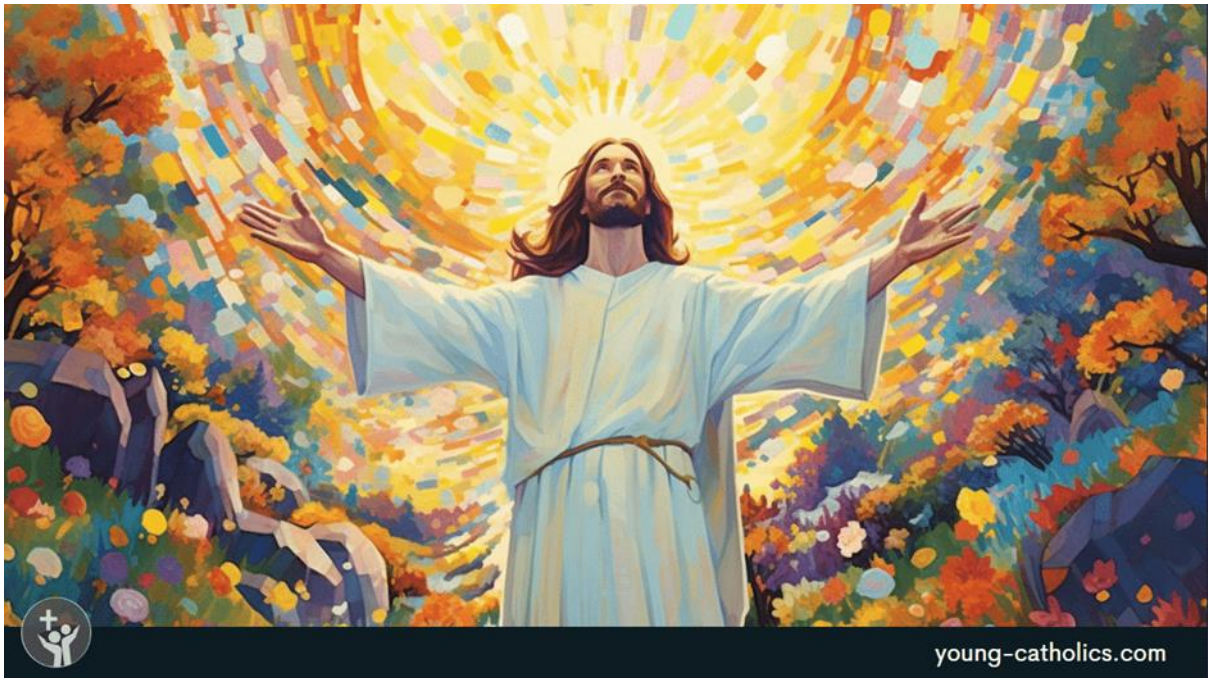


Young People, Jesus Wants to Give You Abundant Life

By Fr Bernard Zong - 23 May, 2023



Being young is a very important stage in the development of our lives. It is a time for exploring the world and seeking truth. At this stage, we are often full of questions. Some questions are about the unknown, others are about reflecting on the challenges and hardships we experience.

We often ask: Where do people come from? Why is there suffering? What is the purpose of life? The encounter between Jesus and the two disciples of Emmaus can help us to answer to these questions and to clarify the direction of our lives. (Luke 24:13-35)



Questioning is a Clue to the Pursuit of Truth

We should keep exploring the truth. This searching will help us to find answers, like the two disciples of Emmaus, who were on a journey to discover what had happened to Jesus (Luke 24:14). They could not understand how the kind Jesus could have been betrayed by his great friend Judas. They had questions. Why was it that the chief priests and leaders wanted to condemn Jesus to death and crucify Him? Nor did they understand why Jesus was crucified instead of seizing power over the whole of Israel, when he had a large following? They had hoped to follow Jesus and build a powerful kingdom, but this had failed. So, the two disciples had left the community, but they were still discussing what had happened in Jerusalem? They still retained their desire for the truth, and “While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them.” (Luke 24:15)

Let us keep seeking the truth, and Jesus will come into our lives!

Jesus is Willing to Make the Journey with Us

When these two disciples faced difficulties and were sad and disappointed, Jesus appeared to accompany them and walk with them, asking questions and listening to their stories (Luke 24:15-24).

Jesus understands what we are going through.

He knows where we have come from and where we are going.

He understands us perfectly, because He created us (Ps 33:15).

He is always with us (Matt 28:20).

He desires to have a personal relationship with us, and God willingly bestows on each of us the abundance of his grace.

St Paul said, “my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (Phil 4:19).

Let us please be brave enough to tell our story to Jesus!

The Power of Jesus' Words

The words of Jesus will help to dispel our worries. The gentle words of Jesus warm our hearts. The two disciples at Emmaus remembered the fire in their hearts when Jesus talked to them on the road (Luke 24:32). The words of Jesus give us the strength to face with courage all the difficulties and challenges we encounter in our daily lives. The words of Jesus can answer all our questions.

Let us listen to Jesus!

Jesus Gives Us Himself

The two disciples of Emmaus invited Jesus to eat with them. “He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him” (Luke 24:30-31). This act of breaking bread led the two disciples to immediately recognise the risen Jesus, for the breaking of bread was an important sign of Jesus. The bread represents the body of Christ. The breaking of the bread is Jesus' sacrifice of himself to share God's grace with others. Therefore, that all those who receive the broken bread will also

become part of the body of Christ. Through Jesus Christ, **all** people are reconnected with each other and with God.

Let us accept the unreserved love of Jesus for us!

Jesus Gives Us the Mission of Love

After the two disciples had recognised the risen Jesus, they immediately returned to the community of disciples in Jerusalem to tell them the good news of Jesus' resurrection. As we become part of the body of Jesus, we also possess the love of Jesus, which is the hope that all people will also receive the good news and become truly happy. So let us, like these two disciples, bring the good news of Jesus' resurrection to others.

Let us share the Good News with others!

So now...

The encounter between the two disciples of Emmaus and Jesus completely changed their state of being, from a disappointed departure from the community of disciples to a happy return as ministers of good news.

Let us come together to explore how Jesus can help us with our big questions. Let's see how the Gospel can inform us and how we can learn from each other by praying together.



Details...

Who: Young people and young at heart, we welcome you to join a small group of parishioners.

Where: Church of the Assumption, Howth.

When: First and Third Sunday monthly, after 11.30 Mass for about 40 minutes.

Why: Reflect on the Gospel, share how it impacts our lives and pray together.