

## Homily 19<sup>th</sup> April

If you ask any two football fans to describe a match that they have both seen and you will get two very different accounts.

They will both tell you about the bits that stand out for them. The bits that were important to them. The other bits they will have forgotten unless you reminded of them.

So what do I remember about my teams last match? - Not a lot! (I am trying to forget!!)

I suppose it's the same with people in court.

They are all sworn to tell the truth and yet they may have very different accounts of the same incident. They will each remember the bits that stuck in their minds.

(If everyone said exactly the same thing then it would look as though they had got together and decided what to say.)

You would expect each person to say things that were slightly different. The facts as they saw them. Same event slightly differing accounts!

So perhaps the fact that there are four different accounts of the resurrection in the four Gospels is not really surprising.

They are all true, but different witnesses see different things and remember different bits. Perhaps the bits that were important to them.

I guess we could spend hours debating:-

Were there two angels or just one?

How many women were there?

Who was the first to see Jesus?

The answers are simple - we just don't know!

And does it really matter?

Perhaps if all the accounts were exactly the same we would think they had got together and made it up.

Maybe the fact that there are differences means that we can learn more about the people who told the stories and those who wrote them down.

Maybe we also need to remember that those who had seen what happened were in shock. They hadn't expected this.

No one had ever experienced what they had.

They were human and their emotions must have been upside down.

Surely they must have been filled with joy but perhaps there was also some fear and even doubt.

After this what was coming next?

When something amazing happens it can be very unsettling.

Everyone would be caught off guard.

They would need time to adjust to something beyond their expectations.

They had to get their heads round the fact that death was not a tragedy but the beginning of

something amazing.

Remember the disciples were after all just ordinary human beings. - Just like you and me!  
So what would we have done, or thought if we had been there?

I wonder would all the I's have been dotted and the t's crossed for us?

Well certainly not for me! - It would take time.  
Perhaps even a lifetime!

Resurrection is concept that takes a bit of getting used to!

So what is the truth? Pilate asks Jesus that same question.

*"What is the truth?"*

Jesus replies:- *"I am the truth."*

Pilate couldn't recognise the truth when the "truth" was standing in front of him.

But Jesus is so different to anyone who has ever lived.

So how can people today recognise the "truth" when Jesus is so different to anyone they may have met before.

Remember Thomas, one of the disciples.

Someone who had known Jesus so well.

Seen him do amazing things.

Seen him healing people.

Seen him raising the dead.

Seen him teaching them.

And even then after all that he couldn't get past the human understanding of death.

So how can those who have never met him get past their human understanding?

When Thomas came face to face with the risen Christ.

He had the evidence.

He thought it was amazing.

Amazing but true.

I guess we all have to ask ourselves these questions:-

Is truth limited to what we can understand?

Or could there be a much bigger truth that is beyond human understanding?

Or is there a truth bigger than human reasoning?

For Christians the answer is easy!

But perhaps not so easy for those who have yet to meet with Jesus.

All the impossible questions for human intellect are part of the truth of Jesus.

The truth of the resurrection.

The truth of Jesus.

The truth of God.

I guess that's why you are reading this today.

Why?

Because Jesus is alive to us all.

Because Jesus lives in our hearts.

That is beyond common sense and yet we know it

to be true.

How do we know?

Because we have prayed to him and our lives have been changed.

Our lives have been transformed.

The "big truths" are too big for us to handle on our own.

That's why we come together to shout out:-

"Christ is risen. He is risen indeed."

That's the truth!!

Ask two people who have been to a football match the final score, or who won.

They will agree straight away.

That's fact!

That is what happened on the first Easter.

That's fact!

That's true, with no doubts!