***Monday 27th April 2020 Collective Worship – St Thomas Aquinas***

*If you can, it might help to set aside a space for prayer, light a candle to focus.*

**Collective Worship**

1. Start with the Sign of the Cross
2. Take time to read yesterday’s Gospel **Luke 24:13-35**

**The road to Emmaus**

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, ‘What matters are you discussing as you walk along?’ They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, ‘You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.’ ‘What things?’ he asked. ‘All about Jesus of Nazareth’ they answered ‘who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.’

Then he said to them, ‘You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?’ Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. ‘It is nearly evening’ they said ‘and the day is almost over.’ So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, ‘Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?’

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, ‘Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.’ Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

**Short Reflection**

Unlike the two friends, we are unable to wander off with our friends at the moment. Some of us might feel our days are full with homework and enjoying the sun but it might be the older generation or those who are living alone that are feeling a sense of loss at not being able to see other people, especially grandchildren. It is a sense of loss that Cleopas and his companion are feeling when they are talking to Jesus. But, it is sometimes when we are feeling sad or anxious that Jesus is with us.Through the scriptures they come to understand the Word of God. During this year of the Word let us remember that we can turn to scripture (pick up our Bibles) and know that Jesus is accompanying us by speaking to us in this way.

Poem of Hope:

The churches are empty – but so is the tomb,

And Jesus is victor over death, doom and gloom.

So this year at Easter, let this be our prayer,

As the virus still rages all around everywhere.

May the world see the church is not a ‘ death and resurrection,

May the world find joy in a time of dejection.

May 2020 be known as the year of survival,

But not only that-

Let it start a revival.

My hope is in the Lord

Micah 7:7

1. **Our Father**  
   *Our Father, Who art in heaven,   
   Hallowed be Thy Name.   
   Thy Kingdom come.   
   Thy Will be done,   
   on earth as it is in Heaven.  
   Give us this day our daily bread.   
   And forgive us our trespasses,   
   as we forgive those who trespass against us.   
   And lead us not into temptation,   
   but deliver us from evil. Amen.*
2. **School Prayer**

*Christ, you are the centre of our school community*

*Help us to live together in peace*

*Help us to love one another as you have loved us*

*Help us to learn your ways so that the truth will set us free.*

*Amen*

1. St Thomas Aquinas, Pray for us
2. Finish with the Sign of the Cross

*Suggested song for the day: ‘All Heaven Declares’ –* This version is sung by Richard Smith (sent also as a separate email in case it doesn’t open)