

The Rectory

8th April

Dear Family,

At the moment I aim to have a walk around Olney between 2pm and 3pm every afternoon. It is my allowed exercise and the timing of it reminds me of Jesus' final hour on the cross and that what Jesus said on the cross was for me and everyone in our town.

“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

It helps me to thank Jesus for what He did for me and for everybody else too.

The proof that we can all be forgiven is seen in the incredible truth of what happened on the first Easter Day:

“...Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³ They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”

“They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don't know where they have put him.” ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?”

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).

Jesus had been raised from the dead with a new resurrection body. He had defeated the power of sin, sickness and death. The most amazing victory in history had been won. In this present age we sometimes see proof of His once and for all triumph over evil. One day in heaven we will see His conquest in all of its completeness. Then we will also see Jesus the magnificent victorious King in all of His Glory. It will be a time to be with God forever and a time to be reunited with our loved ones who have also been forgiven and raised to new

life. All of this is a truth that we cannot understand completely now, but as Saint Paul wrote,

“For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.”

Here on earth we are fully known and loved by God. One day in heaven we will meet God who loves us totally and forever. Easter eggs remind us of new life. The empty tomb declares to us that we can have eternal life. They say “the proof of the pudding is in the eating.”

The proof of God’s love for you is in the resurrection!

Stay safe and God Bless,

Andrew+