

Prayer

O God, who were pleased to give us
the shining example of the Holy Family,
graciously grant that we may imitate them
in practicing the virtues of family life
and in the bonds of charity,
and so, in the joy of your house,
delight one day in eternal rewards.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen



Our Catholic faith and the teaching of the Church enable us to affirm the truth about marriage and family:

We believe that times of difficulty in marriage and family life can also be moments of growth in holiness and love and therefore have a special claim to the Church's pastoral ministry.

We believe that marriage is the basis for family life which offers to the world the witness of faith lived as a journey of hope, joy and love.



THE CALL, THE JOURNEY AND THE MISSION

An Invitation from the Bishops of England and Wales to Reflect on the Gift of Marriage and Family Life

Post Easter The Disciples on the Road to Emmaus



Scripture: Luke 24: 13-32

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us,

because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognised him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”

Questions to ponder

- How do you think the disciples felt as they walked along the road away from Jerusalem, in the aftermath of the Crucifixion? What had been their hopes?
- Describe where Jesus is in the story, and the manner in which he accompanies them. In what ways does he help them to ‘open up’?
- What experiences in your life echo this sense of accompanying those in our family who are walking into the night? How might you listen, and help share the burden of a family member?
- What is most important for you in this story, and you would like to echo in your life, and see echoed in the ministry offered by the Church?