

Sunday 16th April 2017, 6.00am**Year A****Gen.1: 1-5, 26-end; Exod. 14: 15 – 15: 1a; Ezek. 37: 1-14; Rom. 6: 1-11; Matt. 28: 1-10**

“If anyone is in Christ there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” (2 Cor. 5:17)

God is for us! God is with us! He loved us so much he became a human being in the life of Jesus Christ. He took upon himself, what we could not bear – our sense of lost direction, of always seeming to fall short of what we might be, of our foolish pride. We call it the cost and weight of our sinfulness. He took it down to death and left it there and God raised him up to a new resurrected life in the Godhead, so that we might come to share in that life, now in anticipation and fully beyond the grave. There is hope and there is purpose because there is such love.

On Ash Wednesday we were reminded that we are dust of the earth and to that dust we shall one day return. We shall become atoms of the earth when we die. But those atoms have the potential for life, for life with God. The unique individuals that we are have the potential to become divine. So Easter Day is the day we celebrate our relationship with God as God's sons and daughters. We are a new creation in the likeness of Jesus Christ our Lord.

The risen Jesus bears the marks of crucifixion. There is continuity with what he endured on the cross. The cross becomes the way we have some part with him. We can offer our pain and suffering, our humiliation and doubts, knowing that God understands, because God has been there. In our risen life in Christ we carry the scars of life's experience. Just as Jesus gave himself away for us and to us, so we must learn to give our lives away for others. *“This is my body given for you”*, says Jesus to his friends at the Last Supper, so he does it too on the cross. We receive that broken and risen body in the forms of bread and

wine and we are thus incorporate into his life, commissioned to go all out for others.

There is so much to celebrate and so much to tell, yet awe-filled silence before this mystery of his risen life and a joyful Alleluia! say it all. The risen Lord Jesus comes to us now in this Sacrament of Holy Communion to transform our lives, to give us hope and trust in what is to come in our lives and at our death. Like him we are in the Father's hands. Alleluia! Amen.