

# A NEW HOPE RISES

## 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020

Last Sunday we looked at the New Day Dawning. And today we are going to reflect on

“A New Hope that Rises.”

We all know that God gives us, a New Day each morning. And we are grateful for HIS gift of life.

As we reflect on the Gospel passage we heard today, it's a story of something happened early one morning.

Peter and his friends had gone back fishing, their usual occupation after being with Jesus for over three years and now lost their leader, so to speak.

We all know that Jesus was crucified. His disciples who had so much full of themselves that they had this Jesus who was performing miracles, healing the sick and teaching and preaching and guiding them all to lead a life full of compassion and love, felt they were abandoned.

Now they felt so let down, stripped off, long days and long nights of worries, fear of the authorities that they will be caught and be punished like Jesus.

Just like them, don't we feel let down, stripped off, long days and nights of worries? Fear of the Government as to what they are going to announce next. Is it a lock down or is a second wave?

For 6 months we were under so called locked down, unable to meet family and friends, unable to give our loved ones warm hugs, unable to worship in church, no social interactions.....and as we were getting out of it ..... from tomorrow we have to limit the numbers to 6 when we meet in our homes or outside. We may feel that we are taking a step back.

But, as our President and Vice President of the Methodist Conference announced, “Best of all is, GOD is with us.

So, one early morning, when Peter and his friends had been fishing all night and, tired, disappointed and disheartened coming towards the shore, Jesus asked them “young men, haven't you caught anything?” “Not a thing” they answered.

Even though they didn't know it was Jesus, they listened to his command. “Throw your net out on the right side of the boat and you will catch some.” He said.

Sure they did. Guess what? They caught so much fish that they even needed their friends from another boat to come and help them.

What a marvellous experience!!

Jesus knew their tiredness, their disappointment and disheartened feelings, HE had a breakfast cooking on the beach for them. Jesus invited them to join for breakfast. How do you think they would have felt?

Did they say wow? And jumped at the idea?

They must have been so, so pleased and delighted as they knew it was the Lord from the catch of fish they had following Jesus' instructions.

Jesus went over to the breakfast area and took the bread and gave it to them.

He fed the hungry men. The hurting men. The disappointed men. By doing that he gave them A New Hope. You are not on your own. I am with you, join me HE said.

They were refreshed and a New Hope for the future was what they received.

By sharing the bread, Jesus gave grace and spiritual empowerment. He showed them, I did not leave you abandoned. I am with you. I will be with you. I will provide your needs.

That is the NEW HOPE they received.

By sharing the bread, Jesus gave peace of mind and reassurance. Jesus calmed their fears and comforted them by his presence.

That is the NEW HOPE he gave.

By sharing the bread, Jesus forgave them for all what happened before. Peter denied Jesus three times, the other disciples let him down and ran away when Jesus was tried. But by sharing the bread Jesus showed forgiveness.

That is the NEW HOPE they received.

It is the same Jesus who is giving us a NEW HOPE. A NEW START. A NEW BEGINNING.

Grace and spiritual empowerment; peace of mind and reassurance and forgiveness is what he is offering us too.

We may be struggling thinking, will there an end to this pandemic? Would we ever go back to normality?

This may be the start of the new norm, but we know that the Jesus who gave Peter and his friends a NEW HOPE is certainly giving us a NEW HOPE. Yes today a NEW HOPE RISES for all of us.

Whatever the situation it may be, whatever challenges that we may face, let us not forget the words "Best of all is, God is with us." He will provide for us and meet our needs; only if we let him to.

When we say our Lord's Prayer we say - "give us this day our daily bread". That is to ask to meet our needs every day, whether it is physical, emotional or spiritual he is ever ready to meet our needs. That is the hope we have.

God is mindful. God pays attention to all our needs.

So the message today is as A NEW DAY DAWNS, A NEW HOPE RISES.

Just hold on to that thought.

May God do great things that he has never done before.

May God bless you all.

AMEN.

