
21 FRIDAY

EASTER FRIDAY

Acts 4: 1 - 12
Ps 117: 1-2, 4, 22-27
John 21: 1 - 14

This Easter week, from all four gospels, we listen to accounts of resurrection appearances of Jesus. From St John today, the scene is the shore of Lake Tiberias in Galilee, and a rather long, leisurely, gentle and intimate report. As they'd been told to do, Jesus' disciples went to Galilee to wait for Him there. Seven of them were there, carefully named by St John (the "two more" whose names he doesn't give are maybe himself and Andrew ?), who went out fishing one evening. There were four others of the original 12 not there. Where were they, and why were they not with their companions ?

The whole atmosphere of these resurrection scenes is very peaceful, and almost "matter-of-fact". There is hardly any suggestion of excitement or great joy, though surely it must have been an extraordinary experience for all who saw the risen Jesus. The single jarring note is Thomas' irritated reaction (St John's gospel) when he discovered Jesus had appeared to the others in his absence: but Jesus later humoured him with a very personal meeting, and Thomas is notably mentioned among those who went fishing on Tiberias lake.

After each appearance, Jesus "disappeared" again. But that did not leave His friends sad or disturbed; rather, it was His disappearance that seemed to give them joyful energy and urgency to go share the experience with others.

Like the four who were 'missing' on the lake, or Thomas that first Easter night, we haven't seen Jesus. He has "disappeared" for now. Yet, we believe He is risen, alive, and we catch traces of His presence all around us; may we continue to meet Him in the company of His friends.