

So Easter has arrived... and it does arrive... but it doesn't leave... You can't say Easter comes and goes... it just arrives... and we are now in the season of easter... where we have a whole seven weeks to tell resurrection stories...

But in truth every Sunday is known as easter day...

But now we have a whole season to tell all the stories we have of resurrection... and there are quite a few...

We have not just the empty tomb stories... or upper room stories... but also the beach stories... and today's story... the walk to Emmaus by a couple of friends who are joined on the way by a stranger...

It is a strange story for that... as this stranger arrives out the blue and then disappears in a puff of breadcrumbs...

But in telling the story... you get a sense of the atmosphere... You can feel the setting sun... casting orange glows across the faces of the three of them... the long evening shadows in the inn... the warm smell of the bread... and then imagine the explosion of light... as the stranger breaks the bread... and it falls to the table in a holy cascade of crumbs... and you watch in slow motion... as it falls upside down... and rock backwards and forward... for the one who has been holding it a second ago... has gone...

In so many ways... the story of the walk to Emmaus... is a favourite resurrection story... perhaps because it is so plausible... and everyday...

When people wanted to tell others about resurrection... they could simply say... Look... the stone rolled... the tomb was empty... the evidence says Jesus is alive... QED...

But the gospel isn't like that... The gospel never asks you to believe in facts... What it wants to give you... and leave you with... is an experience... Come and listen... this is what meeting resurrection feels like...

And the way the gospel gives you that experience... is tell you a story... a story vivid yet plausible enough... that you can imagine yourself in it... indeed feel yourself in the story... feel the dirt between your toes on the road... feel the setting sun on your face... hear the voices of the strangers in the story... witness the bread as it breaks and experience the surprise as Jesus is fleetingly captured in an unexpected moment of recognition... and is gone...

And say... that's what resurrection is like...

The gospel says here is what it was like... We're not here to give you proof... we want you to know the experience... and here's a story we tell that gives you that experience...

Resurrection is not some kind of doctrine... it is an experience in the everyday... Tell the Emmaus story... conversation... welcoming... breaking bread... that's what an encounter with resurrection feels like... he's alive like that...