

## Easter Sunday

Our reading today from St Luke's gospel reminds us that no one expects the resurrection. Even though Jesus has been telling his disciples that it will happen, no one greets the news that God has raised Jesus from the grave and has defeated death and the devil by saying, "I knew it – just like he said!"

No one expects resurrection and no one seems to believe it at first. The women come to the tomb expecting to anoint Jesus' dead body. They have no expectation that he has been raised. In fact, it is only when they are reminded by the "two men in dazzling clothes," do they recall Jesus' promise.

They run back to tell the rest of the disciples ... who greet their tale with utter scepticism. Luke tells us that those who received the testimony of the women regarded their message as an "idle tale." That's actually a fairly generous translation of the Greek work used here, which was *leros*. The word that is the root of our word "delirious." So in short, they thought what the women said was crazy, utter nonsense.

And, who can blame them? Resurrection isn't simply a claim that Jesus' body was resuscitated; it's the claim that God entered the stage of human history in order to create an entirely new reality all together. Which, quite frankly, can be frightening. If the dead don't stay dead, what can you count on? Resurrection, seen this way, breaks all the rules, the old rules may not be perfect but they are predictable, a known quantity, and in this sense comforting. And resurrection upsets all of that.

Resurrection, in other words, throws off the balance, and generally turns our neat and orderly lives upside down. We've heard the story of resurrection so often it hardly makes us blink, let alone shake with wonder and surprise. We seem not to recognize the incredible implications of the fact that when God raised Jesus from the dead, God was creating a new reality; overthrowing death, sin, and all that would oppress us; and declaring once and for all that life is more powerful than death and love more enduring than tragedy.

This Easter, I invite you to allow the wonder of what God's has done in the resurrection to break in upon you in a new way. Think about what makes believing in the resurrection difficult. Death does not have the final word. Love and life are stronger than fear and death. I keep reminding people at funerals that we can expect to see those we've loved and lost again. God has a future in store for each and all of us. Anything is possible with God.