

Homily – Sunday 12th May 2019 – 6 pm

I was reading an article this week about the new publicity campaign for Carlsberg. In case you didn't know, for many years the advertising slogan for Carlsberg lager has been "probably the best lager in the world." But it seems that even they have had to acknowledge that their claim simply wasn't true. Because their customers have been telling them so. Which means that their new advertising campaign features a series of rude comments posted on various social media platforms by dissatisfied customers – comments like "it's like drinking the bath water your nan died in" - and says: "Carlsberg. Probably not the best lager in the world. So we changed it."

Do you ever find yourself struggling to know what to believe; where truth lies?

The thing is, Carlsberg's claim was clearly always absurd. What does it mean to have the best lager anyway? And assuming that we're talking about flavour, taste is always somewhat subjective. I expect that none of us expect the information provided in advertising to be truthful. We've got used to it.

But what about when it comes to more significant issues. Where, for example, can we go to find information about climate change and environmental protection that is reliable and accurate? Across the world different views are expressed, and the future of our planet is likely to depend on the decisions that our generation and those coming along after us make. How are we to ensure that our decisions are well founded? When the president of the United States can use "fake news" as his rallying cry, where is the hope for truth?

In our gospel reading, it's clear to see that the resurrection appearances presented the followers of Jesus with a challenge. Once someone has died, it simply isn't possible for them to be alive again. That's what common sense tells us, isn't it? The resurrection makes no sense at all.

It is perhaps for that very reason that Jesus never belittles his disciples when they struggle to believe. He simply does the most ordinary of things. He acknowledges their fear and comforts them. He invites them to look carefully at what they are seeing; to touch his wounds and feel his bodily presence. He eats with them and continues to teach them, just as he did when they were alive.

The message that God teaches through the resurrection of Jesus is that life is stronger than death; that love is stronger than hate; that light will always overcome darkness.

In our lives it doesn't always feel like that. God knows that as well as any of us because God experienced it through the life and death of Jesus.

And yet there is a deeper truth than the reality of pain and suffering and our bodily death. And that truth is understood through the resurrection of Jesus.

The risen Jesus did not mock his disciples for their doubts. He simply longed for them to see beyond them. Longed for them to understand deeper truths. During his lifetime, Jesus often encouraged his followers to be like little children – to see the world with the kind of simplicity that children often have. And in a sense that's exactly what he does in his resurrection appearances. He invites his disciples to do very simple things. To look; to touch; to share a meal with him. And through those

simple actions, they are connected with the truth that, in the end, the power of love really will conquer everything.

Amen