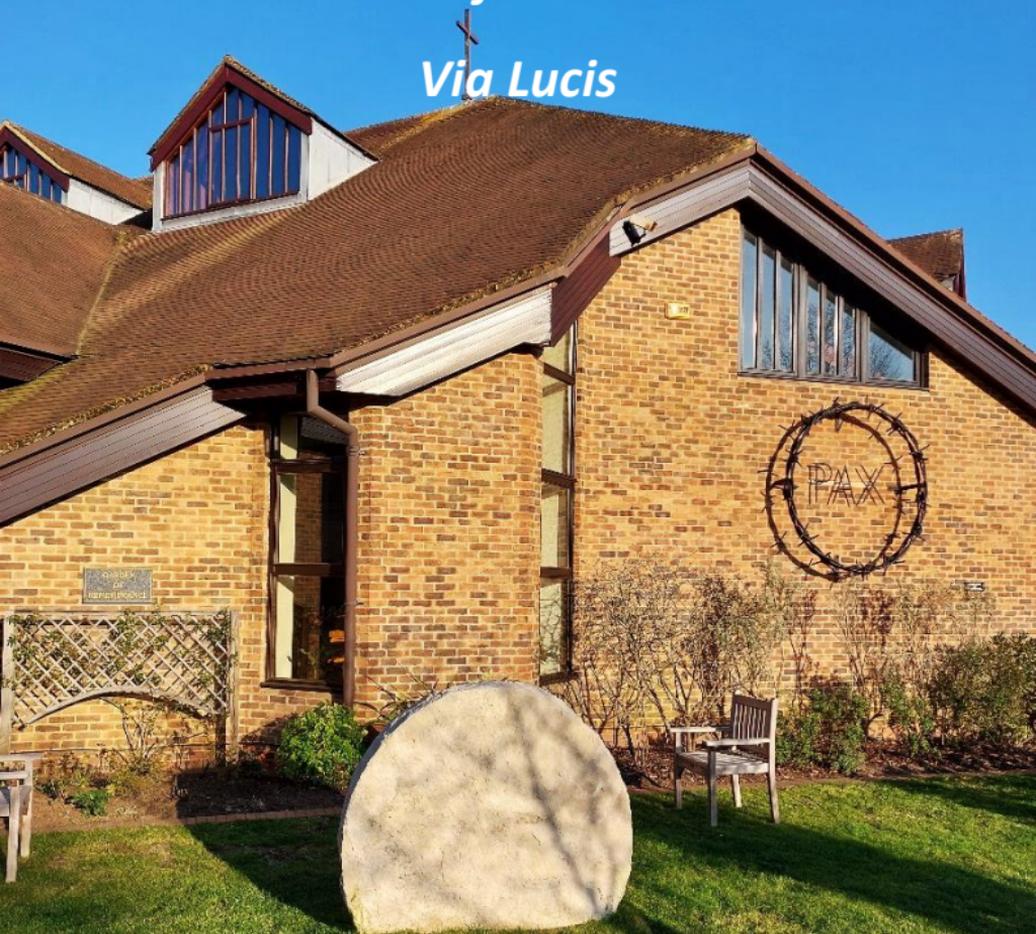


# *The Stations of the Resurrection*

## *Via Lucis*



*Christ the Prince of Peace*

*Weybridge, Surrey*

## I Station

### **The Resurrection**

*“Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.”*

(Luke 24:5)

Jesus has risen. Everything hinges on this. The resurrection makes sense of everything that came before it and transforms the future. It is the fullness of God's salvation. It means that Jesus must be the absolute centre of our lives and that we are people of the resurrection.

**We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, for by your cross and resurrection you have redeemed the world.**

(Repeated after each station.)

## II Station

### **The Finding of the Empty Tomb**

*But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid: I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here for he has risen, just as he said.” (Matthew 28:6-7)*

For a moment, put yourself in the shoes of Mary Magdalene on that first Easter morning: *I am sorrowful, bordering on despair...but as I look into the tomb, forcing myself to do something I know is going to change me for ever, a glimpse of hope creeps into my heart...*

*The tomb is empty, and the shroud that covered my beloved Jesus's body is discarded and his head cloth is folded...death has been conquered, nothing to see here...I need to go and tell the world...*

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### III Station

#### **Mary Magdalene meets the Risen Jesus**

*Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni." Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father." (John 20:16-17)*

After Peter and John, alerted by Mary Magdalene, ran to the empty tomb and saw for themselves, they went back to their home, but Mary stayed. Where could she go?

Mary, broken by Good Friday and exhausted by Holy Saturday, waited in hope, but what she could not have been

prepared for was to see him, to hear Jesus's "Mary". His voice dispelled the pain and darkness.

Mary rose and ran to tell the others. She was energised. She did not stop to ask herself if they were going to believe her. She found her role in God's plan, and that was all she needed to know.

We, like Mary, will be energised by staying close to Jesus and by hearing his voice calling us to mission.

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## IV Station

### **Jesus appears to two disciples on the road to Emmaus**

*They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem. (Luke 24:32-33)*

Sadness, confusion, fear, disappointment can prevent us from seeing clearly. It is precisely at times like this, when we are running in the wrong direction, not knowing very well where to turn, that we run into the

open arms of the Risen Christ. We, like Cleopas, have all the “facts” straight, but still we don’t get it! We may not recognise him, but as we stop running to catch our breath, he will speak, and if we stop to listen, through the mediation of scripture, our hearts will start burning within us...

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## V Station

### **Jesus is known in the breaking of bread**

*When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognised him; and he vanished from their sight. (Luke 24:30-31)*

In the Eucharistic moment, in the breaking of the bread, our eyes are opened! The eucharist is Christ himself, personally and actively present. Recognition of the Risen Christ is linked to the breaking of bread - the eucharist.

It all makes sense, and the moment of illumination will make us turn around, our hearts on fire. The Lord has risen, indeed!

As we walk along the roads of our lives, let us share generously the good news of the Risen Christ, for the world is hungry for the bread of life.

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## VI Station

### **The Risen Lord appears to the community of disciples**

*"Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; it is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have." And as he said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. (Luke 24: 38-40)*

The disciples on the road to Emmaus quickly returned to the other disciples in Jerusalem with "burning hearts". Their despair had turned to hope. They

wanted nothing else but to share that hope with their friends; to tell the others that Jesus was alive. Jesus is always eager to gather the community around the altar and to show them that he has risen with his wounds glorified. All our wounds will one day be glorified. We seek to understand how the Risen Lord invites us to be "wounded healers", while we ourselves are being forgiven and healed.

We often spend our time trying to prove to the world, and to ourselves, that we are *not* wounded, that we are all right. It is time to get close to our wounded Saviour, to accept ourselves as we are, and to seek our Saviour's help.

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## VII Station

### **Jesus gives his disciples His peace**

*Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." (John 20:21-22)*

Even though the doors of the upper room were shut and there was disarray amongst the disciples, the Risen Lord shot through walls of fear and united the hearts of the disciples with the gift of His peace. He is the source of a peace and joy that the world cannot give. The

Risen Lord calls us to bring peace where peace is needed, one relationship at a time, even if it costs us. This is a commitment we cannot run away from.

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## VIII Station

### **Jesus strengthens the faith of Thomas**

*Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:27-28)*

The reaction of Thomas to Jesus's resurrection is important because it is through Thomas's example that we realise that doubt is part of faith, not the opposite. We call him Doubting Thomas, but this is not fair. We forget that after "entering" into Jesus's wounds, he fully embraced the Risen

Christ as his Lord and Saviour. Thomas's doubt was transformed into deep faith. We, too, are called to believe, knowing full well that our faith will be tested by doubt and fear. As disciples who pray for a faith that is fully alive, we will have the strength to be patient and understanding with those who are struggling, searching and seeking like Thomas, even if this is manifested in an aggressive way.

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## IX Station

### **Jesus appears by the Sea of Galilee**

*Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you just caught." So Simon Peter went over and dragged the net ashore full of one hundred and fifty-three large fish. Even though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come, have breakfast." And none of his disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they realised it was the Lord. (John 21: 10-12)*

After the Crucifixion and Resurrection, the Apostles returned to their former ways of life. They did not know what to

do next, so out they went to the familiar Sea of Galilee, but these expert fishermen found themselves ineffective and baffled because not even a single fish was caught. From the shore, the Risen Lord guided them and directed their nets until they were filled to overflowing. As he prepared breakfast for them, he nourished their hearts and promised them that they could be best fed by making disciples in his name. This would be their best catch. Jesus wants us to be fed, too. He has great plans for us, so that we “may have life and have it to the full.”

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## X Station

### **Jesus forgives Peter and commands him to feed his sheep**

*When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?”...Peter was distressed that Jesus had said to him a third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep...Follow me.” (John 21: 15, 17b, 19b)*

The Risen Lord directed his attention to Peter, whose embarrassing three-fold

denial was still aching his heart. His sense of unworthiness was overwhelming, but Jesus negotiated his way to Peter's heart by repeating a question three times: "Do you *love* me?" This gave Peter a chance to express his love for Christ. It was a love that was to grow. Jesus helped Peter to find reconciliation and to embrace his new mission to tend and feed the sheep – the people of God. Their encounter reminds us that forgiveness is always available, even for the most serious of mistakes that we can make. The warm embrace of divine forgiveness strengthens our resolve to be reconcilers and healers in the Spirit of Jesus. Only love can overcome guilt

and deception. Only love and forgiveness can make us whole.

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## XI Station

### **Jesus commissions his disciples**

*“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” (Matthew 28: 19- 20)*

From the mountain-top, the Risen Lord gives the Great Commission to the disciples to reach out to the ends of the earth. We realise that we are the recipients of this faith-filled mission. A good place to start might be from the

premise that we have been called to be a prophet to just one person, once in our life: once in a lifetime is enough. After all, if each of us did only that much, a lot would change! We don't know when that moment will come, but we can still make ready for it, ready to be fully open to another person, and remove whatever barriers might stand in the way of that.

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## XII Station

### **The Ascension of Jesus**

*So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs. (Mark 16: 19-20)*

The Scriptures do not portray the Ascension as a day of sadness. While still looking up at the skies, the disciples are consoled by the continuing presence of the Lord. Since the Resurrection the angels have changed

their tune. They no longer say, “Don’t be afraid.” They say, “Don’t look here; look somewhere else. Don’t look into the tomb for Jesus because that is only a place for the dead. Don’t look into the sky for Jesus because the sky is only a symbol.” A new theme has come into the music: *Stop looking in the wrong place*. They return to the familiar surroundings of the upper room, with Mary, the mother of the Lord, to pray in anticipation of their mission. In this “original novena”, we continue to implore the Risen Lord to be the centre of our lives and to keep us focused as a joyful pilgrim people.

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## XIII Station

### **Mary and the disciples wait in prayer**

*When they entered the city, they went to the upper room where they were staying...All [the apostles] devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, and his brothers. (Acts 1: 13a, 14)*

We look to the upper room as a symbolic place where we return over and over again, so that we can become contemplatives in action. We cannot command the Holy Spirit to come to us. We can only pray for it as the disciples

did in the upper room. As people who are both prayerful and energetic in service to the Gospel, we must always keep vigilant for the advent of the Risen Lord, with the flame of faith alive in our hearts. Only the Lord can refresh our spirits and renew us in the ministries that flow from our Baptism and Confirmation.

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## XIV Station

### **The Holy Spirit descends at Pentecost**

*Suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong, driving wind, and it filled the entire house. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim. (Acts 2: 2-4)*

The power of the Holy Spirit drives the disciples from the upper room into the streets and marketplace. The Spirit compels them to take the message

everywhere, in places familiar and unfamiliar, not stopping until they reach the ends of the world. We have been clothed with the same Spirit. We are called to be evangelisers and witnesses, near and far, wherever we go. The Spirit always goes before us, preparing the way and strengthening our hearts to be generous servants of the Risen Lord. Pentecost is an enduring and continuing event. We implore the Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth, by renewing us day by day.

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