

Easter Sunday 2023

Sadly in the celebrations of Easter we tend to empathise more readily with the sufferings of Good Friday, and neglect the wonder of Easter Sunday.

That Christ has risen from the dead is so vast a notion as to be beyond our comprehension.

Death most of us have seen

Loss most of us have experienced

Injustice something we must all contend with.

But resurrection

Justification

Liberation

And total

This although filled with hope is more difficult

Because it is so infinitely wonderful it is beyond our comprehension

Thus like all valid expressions of faith we must attempt to begin from where I am

Lord I believe, help my unbelief.

Begin perhaps from that experience of grief

Begin perhaps from the death of someone I love

How now does the notion of resurrection fit?

There is the comfort that the one I love is sharing in the blessings of eternity

That when I die we shall be close again

But that is for tomorrow

The numbing sense of grief is what I feel today

It is from that place that I must begin

My life must resurrect with Christ from this gloom

My joy must rise from this death

My lifestyle often given to me by those who have died

Must now rise again and follow Christ on to Galilee

For there is always more

Indeed I have failed in my life more than once.
Times when emerging again to engage with the reality's and consequences has been tough
When the world has let me down
When the only choice has been between acceptance
And the stale stagnation of self-pity
It is from the place of disappointment that I must begin
My life must resurrect with Christ from this gloom
My joy must emerge from this death
My lifestyle may perhaps change from this new point
It must rise again and follow Christ on to Galilee
For there is always more

Indeed as a child I dreamed of being centre forward for Manchester United
I have arisen from this fantasy to find myself sitting on the Turf watching Burnley
Because there is always more
I dreamed that my priesthood would reflect the life of St Frances of Assisi
I have arisen from this ideal to find myself celebrating the gifts I have been given
Because there is always more
I have outlived my youthfulness
But do not need to pretend that I still have what has long since gone
Because there is always more

The Birth of Christ was a part of the Journey
The crucifixion also a part of that journey
The resurrection takes life even beyond death
There is always more
Have faith
There is always more
Believe
There is always more
Do not be afraid

To Follow Christ

Through the pilgrimage of life

Through the challenge of death

And on

And on

To Galilee

Indeed as you journey

Pray for me

As I shall for thee

So that we

May merrily meet in heaven