

Third Easter Year B

Jesus himself stood among them and said to them "Peace be with you"

He said to them

"Peace be with you"

Fear, joy, confusion.

"Peace be with you"

On my travels I have witnessed tourists who have paid large sums of money to see the wild animals in East Africa. On one occasion in a place called Tree Tops after sunset rhino were encouraged with deposits of salt, to come and drink in a pool of water. This viewing point was at edge of the building the guests slept in. There was a thick wall with very narrow viewing slots, and bright lights beaming out into the animal's eyes. We could see them, they could not see us.

When the Rhino appeared there was a flurry of activity

But it was strange

Many of the people tried to capture the moment by pushing their cameras past others, blocking the view and taking poor pictures.

It is a temptation to try and capture the moment

And in that attempt

to lose it

The greatest challenge is to live it

In this case to live the astonishing and eccentric reality of creation

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Fear, joy, confusion.

"Peace be with you"

You cannot capture today

Time is moving on

Like water slipping through your fingers

I have been to art galleries in this country and some places in Europe

You will find that the more famous the image hanging on the wall

The more often people will attempt to take a poor photograph of it

The best example being the Mona Lisa in The Louvre in Paris

Where this inanimate object has a semi-circular partition keeping the public at a safe distance

And ensuring that more can see

It is like a presidential press conference

Hundreds of people reaching to take a photograph

They cannot own the Mona Lisa

But this is an attempt to capture both the picture and the moment

And in that attempt to they lose it

The greatest challenge is to live it

In this case to live the history, the genius, the wealth of being there

Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you"

He said to them

"Peace be with you"

Fear, joy, confusion.

"Peace be with you"

You cannot capture today

Time is moving on

Like water slipping through your fingers

Your confusion may distract, inhibit your reactions

When this beauty, this love, this goodness

Like water is slipping through your fingers

The greatest challenge is to live it

The Baby is born

The sun rises over the edge of a waking world

The team score a glorious goal

The affection is expressed

The humour shared

The bitter pain of grief is felt

The compassion given

The decision made

The Car starts

That first sense of strength after illness

You can capture today,

no more than you can catch the wind

Time is moving on

Like water slipping through your fingers

Peace be with you

Live it

Peace be with you

Live it

Peace be with you

Do not be afraid

Live it now

Here and now