

Easter Sunday (C)

27 March 2016

The resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead is not a kind of magic trick to ensure that the Christian story has a happy ending. The tomb **was** empty. Christ **really** was raised from the dead. The Christian story **does** have a happy ending. But none of these things in themselves really tell us what the resurrection really is.

It is not for nothing that the first reading of the Easter Vigil is the six-day creation story from Genesis 1. What this account tells us is that the whole of reality is constantly dependent upon God's creative word. The whole of reality is to reflect the wonder and glory of God. And, behold, it was very good.

But God doesn't people this creation with an army of robots who are automatically programmed to behave in a particular way. God peoples his creation with real persons, persons who have freedom to love or not to love. And it is that freedom that we have so often abused. And as a result of that abuse that the beauty of our world has been compromised and that death hangs over us as a constant threat to all our endeavours.

'Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her' we heard in the Exultet. 'O truly blessed night, when things of heaven are wedded to those of earth'. This is what the resurrection is all about. The resurrection is about the redemption of the whole of creation, the renewal of the project first alluded to in that chapter from Genesis. The reversal of humanity's sin, the reuniting, as in a wedding, of heaven and earth.

So the resurrection is not of some one-off miracle to make us feel better about the crucifixion. The resurrection is a quantum leap in our capacity as human beings. The resurrection opens us all out to eternity, opens us all out to love and to God. The resurrection restores us to Paradise.

The resurrection points to the glory for which we are all now destined in Jesus Christ. The resurrection now inaugurates the New Creation.

This liturgy is but a tiny foretaste of what is to come.

Fr Michael