

What a turn around.

After a busy few days, it is sometimes nice to have a chilled-out day. We found that was our Easter Monday. The weather wasn't very good, in fact it rained all day, so that made it easier to stay indoors and plan on not doing much nor organising a day out. We were with our daughter and family, so normally would have arranged a day out into the Peak District or the Derbyshire dales, instead we all stayed at home.



We did, however, have a very enjoyable day. In the morning, we all gathered around the dining room table and spent quality time together, either creating and making birthday cards, drawing, catching up with school homework, reading and doing crosswords or quizzes, and generally talking about various things.

After a relaxing buffet lunch, in the afternoon we went off and had some 'time out' on our own, before coming together again for a family game of Cluedo.

At times we can be too busy and organised and our so called 'holiday days' from work can be so hectic that we never have time to just chill out, and they are far from a holiday. We can go back to work more tired than before the break, which defeats the object of having time off.

With all the events and busyness of Easter, the early disciples and followers of Jesus, would perhaps find it hard to just sit and be, not knowing what was going to happen next. They would re-live the events over the last few days, time and time again. I wonder what they were thinking. The week leading up to Good Friday, and then the Resurrection on Sunday morning would have been a very emotional time for them all. They had seen Jesus, their Lord and Master die on a cross, and then 3 days later he was alive again. Now what were they to do?

We read how the disciples stayed in Jerusalem, hiding behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the authorities. However, they needn't have been. Jesus was alive, and although he had sent word with the women to say he would meet the disciples in Galilee, he first appeared to them in the upper room in Jerusalem. In other words, Jesus met them just where they were.

How can one's life be turned upside down and round about so quickly and dynamically? Yet it does happen.

Although our Easter Monday was a quiet, non-eventful day, for others it was not, as we heard about the sad and shocking news of the passing of Pope Francis. Crowds had gathered at the Vatican on Easter morning for Mass, and to hear the Pope give his usual Easter greeting and to receive his blessing. For those present, it was a wonderful and meaningful occasion. Although Pope Francis had been ill, recently having spent some weeks in hospital, he had returned home and seemingly was recuperating. On Easter morning, he looked frail but was determined to perform his usual duty, and ride round in his popemobile, amongst the vast number of Catholics who had gathered to see him in St Peter's square.

What a shock then, for all those who were there, to hear, less than 24 hours later, that the Bishop of Rome, Pope Francis had died. They would find it hard to believe. As news of the Pope's death spread throughout the world, billions of members of the Catholic faith were devastated and began to mourn the loss of this remarkable, well-loved man.

A Pope like non other, he was a peace maker, very much antiwar. He showed great love and compassion, especially for the weak, poor, marginalised and vulnerable. He was a pastoral Pope, a man of warmth and humility who preferred the fellowship of ordinary believers to the trappings of ecclesiastical status and power. It has been said that he was a fine example of a follower of Jesus Christ.

How circumstances can change 'just like that'. What begins as an 'ordinary day', whether full of joy or sadness, can in a flash turn around. For the Catholic church it has been the death of their Pope. For the disciples it was the resurrection of their Lord.

Amidst all our busyness, or our days of quiet and relaxation, our highs and our lows, the wonderful thing about Jesus is, He meets us just where we are. He understands our mixed emotions. He sees into the depths of our hearts and comes close to us.

God bless,

Eileen

EC. 21.4.25