

Easter Sunday April 1st 2018

We have all been at family gatherings when someone begins to tell family stories? It all begins with “do you remember the time when ...? And it goes on from there. Dylan Thomas talks about it on the Christmas nights in his parents’ house” bring out the tall tales” he called it. Firstly the stories are all the more memorable if you’re part of them. We have a great ability to tell stories (especially the Irish) and weave the details and the character into tales are added or exaggerated the stories take on a life of their own.

This last week has been a time of sacred storytelling. We have journeyed from the table of Holy Thursday to the Cross on Good Friday and now we have moved to the Tomb of Easter, and found it not as we left it ,but as we knew it would be ... empty. Our identity is reaffirmed as Christians and the story has been told at this gathering of the Christian family for another year. We tell sad stories as well as happy ones ;but only because we know that that sad ones have a

redemptive end to them. We cannot tell stories of resurrection without having told the story of passion and death. If we don't tell both find ourselves still stuck on the cross and living without the hope of what comes next. Having been removed from the cross we ourselves are resurrected and living without of what comes next. Having been removed from the cross we ourselves have been resurrected and eternal life becomes ours.

The stories of this week is the story of the death of Christ ; the story of darkness into light ;the story of hatred turned to love; the story of betrayal becoming transformed ; the story of pain and suffering .It follows a long line of stories

Fundamentally, the story of the Resurrection is the only story we ever need to hear as Christian because if this story is not true then everything else is meaningless. All my preaching is worthless in fact that is ever said ,written, proclaimed announced about Christianity is futile if we have failed to believe the story of the Resurrection.This is not a myth

or fable or some symbol this is not a product of some intellectual machination ,cooked up by learned men and women to placate the Christian masses and keep them coming back for more. Let me say it again ,if Christ did not rise again from the dead all of this is worthless.

Secondly, if we do not take this as an article of faith then everything else has no meaning. You can't say, well I believe this and that about Christianity, but when it comes to the Resurrection I'm not sure then. None of the rest really matters. Our faith is in vain we're the most pitiful of all creation. At the heart of the New Testament is the belief in Christ crucified, otherwise everything else is a joke. If we truly believe that Christ is Risen ,then He must be, and can only be the center of our lives. AMEN

