Sisters of Jesus Way

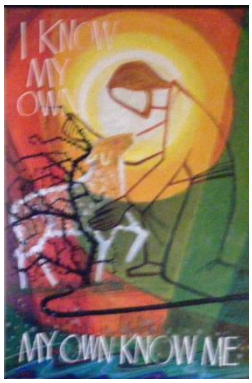
Easter Newsletter 2024



I will trust in the cross of my Redeemer,
I will sing of the blood that never fails;
Of sins forgiven, of conscience cleansed,
Of death defeated and life without end.
Beautiful Saviour, Wonderful Counsellor,
Clothed in majesty, Lord of history,
You're the Way, the Truth, the Life,
Star of the morning, glorious in holiness,
You're the Risen One, Heaven's Champion,
And You reign, You reign over all.
(Stuart Townend © 1998 Thankyou Music)

Our dear Friends,

We begin with part of an inspired song by Stuart Townend containing many Christian truths. When looking at these, I asked myself the question, where are my eyes and thoughts fixed at this Eastertime? Knowing for myself how easy it is to become distracted, I felt it might be helpful for all of us to ask ourselves these questions: How often are our eyes and hearts fixed on the cross, where Jesus suffered and died for us, or on His precious blood, shed for us? Have we the assurance of sins forgiven and a clear conscience? Are we living a victorious Christian life, confident of Jesus' resurrection from the dead? Or are we distracted, like Martha (Luke 10:40), having our eyes and hearts on many things? Are our minds on chocolate eggs, simnel cakes, egg races? Are we circling round ourselves, our needs and problems, our failures and successes, what we look like (on the outside!), and comparing with other people? Or are we perhaps weighed down with all the problems of the world?



May we be challenged this Easter to fix our eyes and hearts on the crucified and risen Saviour, and allow Him to transform our lives, on the inside, enabling God to work through us, bringing life and hope to a world crying out for an answer.

For by grace we have been saved,
And even faith is not your own,
It's the gift of God for you and not
The works that you have done.
Don't let anybody boast, for this is God's great gift. Amen.
(Kari Tikka, tr. Michael Harper, © Fennica Gehrman / adm Boosey & Hawkes; based on Eph. 2:8-9)

And now, one of our Sisters will share her personal response to Stuart Townend's song:

"*Of sins forgiven, of conscience cleansed.* As I journey through time since joining this Community, I see more of the sinfulness within me, and the Holy Spirit helps me to see what I need to do to put this right with God and our Lord Jesus Christ. I see that my conscience is cleansed through true repentance, and the *Wonderful Counsellor* helps me to come through my sinfulness. My *Beautiful Saviour* cleanses me through His blood shed for me. I praise and thank *Heaven's Champion.*"

As usual, we are enclosing a Celebration Leaflet with this newsletter, giving details of our forthcoming events. Easter is nearly upon us but do get in touch if you would like to join us for our Easter services. In May, we are again holding a Pentecost Retreat, in which we can give thanks for the ministry of the Holy Spirit, honour Him in our worship and learn more about Him in scripture. At the beginning of June we have our popular Praise & Walking Weekend (see further details in the leaflet). In July we have planned two day events. We are offering a Quiet Day on the first Saturday – a time to draw apart with the Lord and listen to His voice in scripture. Then later in the month we have planned a Summer Barbecue, an opportunity to enjoy being out in the beautiful surroundings of

Redacre garden. The last item on the current programme is our Harvest Weekend in mid-September, when we have an opportunity to give thanks for the Heavenly Father's good gifts and faithful love.

As we write this newsletter, we are particularly grateful for the Lord's protection through the winter storms, when despite our exposed location, our property sustained next to no damage. We are also overflowing with thankfulness for the way He has kept us afloat financially through another year in which the general economy was struggling. We again express our gratitude to those of you who have been part of this provision.



An exciting answer to prayer is that we have a team of two new volunteer Swiss dressmakers! They did not know each other beforehand but they get on like old friends! We have been praying for the Lord to send someone ever since our longstanding dressmaker, Jeannette, had to retire for health reasons.

We are glad to welcome the lengthening days after the darkness of winter. Already there are signs of spring in Redacre garden: a patch of snowdrops beside a hedge, crocuses dotted here and there, primulas of different shades, tiny tête-à-tête daffodils in full bloom, tall daffodils just beginning to open out, ornamental cherry blossom in the front drive, and tall pink camellias. Frogs have emerged from hiding. Blue tits, great tits, goldfinches and other birds dart about the trees and shrubbery and birdsong can be heard once again. This year we have decided to put up two bird boxes on the side of our houses. Some of our neighbours are doing the same.

In closing, another Sister shares her prayer-response to the opening song:

"I will trust and sing of my Redeemer, who went to the cross for me. I thank Him for what He did. You are my Saviour and Lord, and I sing of my love for You. Lord Jesus, I thank You that You died for me. Amen."

With blessings in our Risen Lord,

The Sisters and Brother



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