

The Junior Observer

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Q&A

What village were the two men walking to?

What did Jesus interpret for the men?

Read more about it in Luke 24

A Good News Story

Jesus Appears to Two Followers

Catholic News Service

Two of Jesus' followers were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus. Along the way, they talked about Jesus' arrest, crucifixion and death.

Just then, Jesus began walking with them, although they did not recognize Him.

"What are you discussing as you walk along?" He asked.

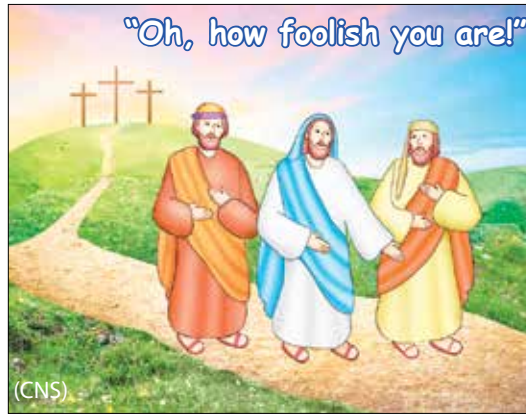
The men looked very sad.

"Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?" asked one of the men.

"What sort of things?" Jesus replied.

"The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed Him over to a sentence of death and crucified Him," the men explained.

"But we were hoping that He would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this



(CNS)

Bible Trivia

How many miles was it from Jerusalem to Emmaus? (Hint: Luke 24:13)

Answer: Seven

took place."

The men then told Jesus that the women in their group had shared some amazing news. They were at the tomb that morning and found it empty, and angels told them that Jesus was alive.

Jesus looked at the pair.

"Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets

spoke!" He exclaimed. "Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?"

Then, beginning with Moses and the prophets, Jesus interpreted all of the Scriptures that pertained to Him, the Messiah.

As the trio reached Emmaus, it looked like Jesus planned to walk on.

"Stay with us," the men urged, "for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over."

So, Jesus stayed with the men and ate a meal. As Jesus took the bread, blessed it, broke it and shared it with them, the men's eyes were opened. They recognized Jesus, but He vanished from their sight.

"Were not our hearts burning within us while He spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?" the men said.

The men returned to Jerusalem and found the Apostles.

"The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" they said.

Catholic Traditions: Rogation Days

Old Holy Days Bless Seeds and Fields

Rogation Days used to be celebrated on a regular basis in the Catholic Church. Now they are a tradition that are kept in some rural parishes.

Also called Cross Days, the point of the days was to make a procession to farms in a parish to bless the seeds and the fields before planting.

The name Cross Days came from the fact that the early processions often stopped at crosses erected on the road sides or carved into trees.

The priest read from the Bible at each stop, then the gathered faith-



(CNS photo/Janet Jones, The Catholic Lighthouse)

Bishop Brendan J. Cahill of Victoria, Texas, blesses farm seed on Feb. 1. This used to be done annually on Rogation Days.

ful would join him in litanies and antiphons.

St. Pope Paul VI Rogation Day celebrations always include prayers for vocations, along with traditional prayers for good crops.

When are Rogation Days?

The feast of St. Mark, April 25, is the Major Rogation Day.

The three days preceding the Ascension are considered Minor Rogations, according to the Catholic Rural Life organization. This year,

Ascension Sunday will be May 24.

The minor days are generally close to the feast of St. Isadore, the patron saint of farmers, on May 15.

You can offer this prayer used on Rogation Days for farmers near you, and for your own garden.

To thee, O Lord, we cry and pray; bless this sprouting seed, strengthen it in the soft winds, refresh it with the dew of heaven, and let it grow to full maturity for the good of body and soul.

— Sharon Boehlefeld

Puzzle

Unscramble the words and arrange them to form a quotation from the children's story.

rou eh runbing su

reew skope ton

sthrea tinwih liehw

Put the words in order.

Answers: our he burning us were spoke not hearts within while Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke.

What is ... ?

A litany: "A litany, which, in its original Greek means a 'supplication' or 'petition,' (is) used for a wide range of liturgical occasions, as well as for penitential processions."

— United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

An antiphon: An antiphon is a verse or more from a psalm that used to be sung at the beginning of the Mass.

— The Catholic Encyclopedia