

Third Sunday of Easter

Homily: Fr. Shijo George

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“A Deep Call of the Heart: Stay With Us.”

The road to Emmaus is not just a journey of two disciples; it is the quiet mirror of our own lives. Two hearts walk together, heavy with grief, carrying shattered hopes and unanswered questions. They had believed, they had trusted, they had dreamt... and now everything seemed lost.

Then a stranger draws near. They do not recognize Him; not because He is absent, but because sorrow has clouded their vision. Pain has a way of dimming faith. Disappointment can veil even the presence of God. Yet, something begins to stir within them. As the stranger speaks, as He unfolds the Scriptures, as He gently walks beside them, their hearts begin to awaken. The words of this “stranger” are not ordinary—they touch a deeper place, a place untouched by despair. A quiet fire is lit within.

As evening approaches, they say those simple yet profound words: “Stay with us...” This is not mere hospitality. This is not just an invitation to a traveler. This is the cry of their hearts. “Stay with us, because the night is falling... Stay with us, because we are tired... Stay with us, because something within us has begun to live again...” In that moment, their longing becomes prayer. Their confusion becomes surrender. Their emptiness becomes an opening for grace.

He accepts. He enters the home. He sits at the table. He takes the bread, blesses it, breaks it, and suddenly, their eyes are opened. They recognize Him. The One they thought was lost was walking with them all along.

This is our story too.



There are moments in life when we walk our own *Emmaus Roads*; times of spiritual numbness when God feels distant, when prayer feels empty, and when life seems to lose its meaning. We carry disappointments, broken expectations, and silent grief. Like those disciples, we often fail to recognize Him not because He is absent, but because our understanding is limited. We expect God to act according to our plans, our timelines, and our desires. When He does not, we feel abandoned. But God's plan is always deeper than our expectations. What looked like failure on the Cross became the victory of Resurrection. What seemed like an ending became a new beginning.

In those moments of confusion and darkness, we are invited to do exactly what the disciples did: to whisper from the depths of our hearts, "Lord, stay with us." Stay with us in our doubts. Stay with us in our fears. Stay with us in our unanswered questions. Stay with us when everything feels uncertain. This simple prayer has power, because it is honest, it is humble, and it is deeply human. And when we invite Him, He comes; He comes into our ordinary spaces and sits at the table of our lives. He reveals Himself, sometimes not in dramatic ways but in quiet moments: in prayer, in Scripture, in the breaking of bread, and in the silent warmth of His presence.

The disciples began their journey in sadness, but they ended it in joy. They walked away from Jerusalem in despair, but they ran back with hope, because one thing changed everything; they invited Him to stay.

Today, we are given the same invitation; to invite Him to stay: not just in moments of comfort, but especially in moments of darkness. Let our prayer rise from the depths of our hearts: "Lord, stay with us... Stay with us in our journey, Stay with us in our struggles, Stay with us always." And when He stays, our blindness becomes sight, our sorrow becomes joy, and our hearts begin to burn again.