

One of the joys of this season of Easter, which lasts until Pentecost Sunday, is the daily readings from the Acts of the Apostles. In these readings we are given a keen insight into the life of the early Church from its birthday at Pentecost.

Today's reading describes the arrest of the Apostles and their being placed in gaol. We hear of their miraculous deliverance by an angel of the Lord and of their being told:

"Go and stand in the Temple, and tell the people all about this new life."

One of the challenges I find at present is looking for new ways of sharing with others the joy of this new life, restricted as we are by social distancing! I realise that for some of you this 'distancing' or 'isolation' feels very much like being placed in prison.

It may be that the Lord wishes to visit us in this situation with His angel and to release us from this feeling of captivity of heart or mind. Perhaps the first person to whom we need to speak about this new life is ourselves. We need to accept the Good News expressed so beautifully by Saint John in ***today's Gospel:***

"Yes, God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent His Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through Him the world might be saved."

Let us make this good news very personal today; let us dwell on God's love for Me! His promise of eternal life for Me! His wish not to condemn but to save Me!

Then as this good news releases us from the bonds of captivity let us, as we sing in one of the children's hymns, ***"become the good news we have heard!"***

"Glorify the Lord with me.

Together let us praise His name.

I sought the Lord and He answered me;

From all my terrors He set me free." (Psalm 33)