

When sitting on our chairs and listening to the homily, how attentive are we ? Some of us do listen to what's being said and some can even remember afterwards a few striking words or the theme of the homily. Others try to focus but their minds wander from time to time, or simply give up after a few minutes. Sometimes a word heard in the homily leads to a whole string of personal thoughts and the rest of the homily is lost.

Father Basil asks questions. No-one can happily doze during his homilies. He asks questions and waits for an answer. Usually someone eventually tries to give one.

On this second Sunday of Easter the question was : in all the readings of the Gospel we've heard since Easter, one word has been repeatedly used. Which word ? I'm not definitely sure but I think he asked the question four times.

It met with a deep silence as we were desperately searching our memory : what were the other readings about ? After all, there weren't so many... Could we try the usual word ? Love ? Nice word, of course, but no. Peace be with you? Used just this one time. Too many words anyway. No-one had the answer.

Well, the word was 'go'. Go tell my brothers... go meet me in Galilee... Go ! The very first thing Jesus, risen from the dead, alive, said to the women who had come for him has been : go to my disciples - don't touch me, don't stay with me, don't ask questions, don't marvel - go ! Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee where I'll meet them. No longer hide, brood, despair or delay... go, go out, go away, go...

And I thought : the Gospels tell us that early in the morning, the women went to the tomb, a little sad and anxious at what they had to do and how to do it. There was Mary Magdalene and Mary, mother of James, and other women - Joanna, Salome... and then everything is a bit confused. Two angels appeared, or one, or none. Sometimes the angels told the women to go to the disciples, or then Jesus himself gave the message. And the women fled, rushed, ran... to tell the news. And Peter and John ran to the tomb... A lot of movement was started between the tomb and the place where Jesus' disciples were. And a lot of feelings : surprise, incredulity, joy, happiness...

Rising, Jesus set life in motion again, but a different life, a new life, an unexpected life, a life that death can no longer vanquish. And that news is worth telling all over the world. So let's go and tell it to the world !

Edith