

Reflection for Saturday 24 April

How wonderful and exciting is the Acts of the Apostles. There we hear about how the apostles, having been anointed by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, went out, as Jesus had commanded them, and preached the good news about the Resurrection. They truly were the Easter people. We also read how the Holy Spirit brought the Easter message to fruition in peoples' lives. Thousands were converted to the Faith.

But the work the Apostles' work was not always easy. There was considerable amount of opposition from the authorities who caused the apostles to be flogged and imprisoned. They were not deterred by any of this instead they were glad to have suffered for having preached about Jesus.

We also read in Acts about the healing that Peter carried out as part of the Easter message he preached. Peter was now a changed man: no longer the impetuous person we read about in the gospels but a man confident and fearless in his work for the Lord. Early in Acts In the name of Jesus he healed the lame man at the temple entrance. In this morning's Mass reading from Acts we read about Peter healing the paralytic called Aeneas and raising Dorcas from the dead. She was well known for her charitable work at Lydda.

How different the Church of today is from that In the Acts of the Apostles. Circumstances now are different from those in Acts. We seem to lack the enthusiasm for going out as Jesus commanded and preaching and living the Gospel. If only the Church of today was filled with more Easter people ready to go out and fulfil the Lord's command. But let us not be too gloomy about this. Many Christians are quietly living out their faith in caring for others in their need and sharing the Easter message of joy, hope and peace by the way they live. But there is much more to do in the work of mission and evangelization.

“Lord, turn us all into your Easter people that we might go out and share our faith with others. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.”

Roger Watson