

Thought for the Month

April 2021

Identity

Many people suffer greatly from self-doubt and lack of worth. We all value being recognised and valued and to be called by name is to receive a powerful acknowledgement of who we are. Our name becomes part of our identity, a passport that enables engagement with others.

Our name is important in many aspects of our life. At school, at work, or during social engagements, our name is a badge that facilitates and nurtures our interactions with others. Without a name we have no 'passport' for our life-journey.

Throughout the Bible names are important. People are given names that reflect their role, their purpose or their characteristics. Names have meanings: Noah (rest and comfort), David (beloved), Samuel (God heard), Ruth (compassionate friend), Mary (beloved), Jesus (God is salvation).

On Easter day we celebrate new hope and new life. The body of the crucified Jesus had been placed in a tomb. Yet when his followers went to the tomb it was empty. This news engulfed them in bewilderment and despair. Mary wept, until she heard her name spoken and she turned and recognised the presence of the risen Jesus Christ.

Jesus had called her by name. A new light shone, she was filled with new hope.

When we are lost in darkness and a sense of despair we can weep and we can call out. We can also remember that the risen Christ Jesus knows each of us by name and we can trust in his life-enabling presence, that can help us find a way back to the light.

I pray that this Easter season we can all proclaim from our hearts: Alleluia, Christ is risen, he is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Gwyneth