

Thought for the Day 13th April - John Reed

Read 2 Corinthians 5

We live in a brace new world. Well, a new world anyway. Things that we would have taken for granted just a few short weeks ago – like going to church for Easter, or going away for the school holidays – are now out of the question. All of our lives have changed in many ways. Not always for the better. We are coming to terms with life being very different, for at least a little while.

Which is extraordinary relevant this Easter. Because at Easter a similar – but much more powerful and significant and positive - thing happened. The old order of things passed away, and a new order began under the headship of Jesus. The old order of life was ruled by sin and was characterised by death. Jesus travelled that road with us and for us as he went to the cross. He travelled *with* us, in the sense that he experienced fully all the cruelties and vagaries of this life, and is able to understand and sympathise with us in every way. He travelled *for* us in the sense that he took our place: bearing our sins for us, he died the death we all deserve.

The new order was ushered in with the discovery of the empty tomb. In the end, death could not hold him. The empty tomb marks the beginning of a new era characterised by grace, hope, and new life. The resurrection marks a new beginning, not only for Jesus but for anyone who puts their trust and faith in him. In Jesus, we can begin again, and become part of God's new order. As the apostle Paul put it: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

I wish you a Happy Easter, and hope you will celebrate with me the beginning of God's new order.