

Matthew 28: 1 – 10

'Easter Rollercoaster'

Introduction ...

How do you feel about Roller Coaster rides?

- Have you enjoyed them?
- Have you refused to go on them?
- Are you really looking forward to being old enough or tall enough to go on them?

(We chatted amongst ourselves ... Roller Coaster rides and our feelings and then fed back to Revd Judy)

Relate to Gospel Reading ...

Today we had a rollercoaster of a reading – from shaking with fear to prostrate with joy.

The guards appear to be traumatised – a freeze/flight/fight response, perhaps.

And an angelic figure that looks like something from a fantasy movie – the women don't know whether to laugh or cry.

And the whole journey that the disciples had been on from Palm Sunday to Maundy Thursday to Good Friday, to Holy Saturday ... and to Easter Day and beyond – that was a massive Roller Coaster too.

(We were then asked to have a go at filling in a sheet of different pictures with the likely feelings of the disciples for each)

Palm Sunday J----l Maundy Thursday C---e to J---s Good Friday D-----r Holy Saturday W-----t h---e

Easter Day and Beyond C-----d yet also f---l of J-y and P-----e

Answers suggested: Joyful, Close to Jesus, Despair, Without Hope, Confused yet also full of Joy and Praise

There were still mixed feelings on the first Easter Day and the days that followed. The disciples didn't grasp the whole significance all at once. In the ups and downs of our life – that can be true too. We need to give ourselves time to talk to God about what's going on in and around us. We can, however know, that Jesus himself, as well as his disciples, knows what it's like to experience life as a Roller Coaster at times and can be alongside us when the same is true for us.

And – unlike a Roller Coaster ride that ends at the low point – the Easter message assures us that this is not true for those who are linked to Jesus: we have a Saviour and friend where death is not the end, but just the beginning?

It led Augustine of Hippo to comment: ***"A Christian can be an Alleluia from head to foot!"***

Alleluia, Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

(Adapted from rootsontheweb.com)