Mary writes

A man was walking along the high street when he saw in a shop window a very beautiful picture of the crucifixion. As he stood gazing at it he became conscious of a small boy standing next to him. He too was gazing at the picture with admiration. The man turned to the boy and said, “Do you know what the picture means?” The small boy looked up at him thoughtfully, “Don’t yer know? That man’s Jesus, and them others is Roman soldiers, an’ that woman what’s cryin’s ‘is mother, an’ they killed ‘im!”

The man didn’t want to move from gazing at the impressive work of art but he had pressing business elsewhere, so he turned and walked away. A moment later he heard footsteps running behind him and the boy came rushing up to him. “Hey, mister,” he exclaimed breathlessly, I forgot to tell yer, he rose from the dead!”

On April 21st we will be celebrating the day when Jesus rose from the dead, proving that he had won the battle against wickedness, darkness and death for all time. This event took place almost 2000 years ago and it often seems that evil and suffering still rule the world. But Jesus promises that he will return to our world. He gave us signs to help us recognise when that second coming was near and we can see those signs all around us in our world today. The hope of his coming thrilled and excited the early Church and it has encouraged and cheered the Christians of every age since. But this time he will not return as a baby born in the poverty of a borrowed stable and grow up to be a humble carpenter and itinerant preacher; he will return as King over all kings and ruler of the universe. He will destroy the powers of darkness and bring in a reign of peace and love for all who are his subjects.

Then, at last, it will be true that, “The kingdom of our world has become the kingdom of our God and of his Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever, so that the celebration which began at Easter will never end.

May you know the peace of the risen Christ this Easter time.

Happy Easter!

Canon Mary