

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May      Easter 4**  
**A thought on today's readings**

These readings today are a challenge.

The Lord added to their number...;  
Day by day they spent much time together...;  
...though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall fear no evil...;  
...the sheep did not listen...

In the times we are living in, what do our readings really mean to us?  
Do we see hope? Or do we see despair?

Below is a poem from a Priest and poet, Ian Adam, he is the creator of the daily Morning Bell on social media. His poems are stark, they require the reader to hear in them the deeper questions of life, love and faith.

I wonder how this poem will sit with you, when placed within our readings and what the world is experiencing today...

***STOP THIS NOW, WALK AWAY***

***Everything is in the balance.***  
***Your hope.***  
***Your faith.***  
***Your existence.***  
***You do not have to remain on this path.***  
***Stop this now, walk away.***

***Except you know that you must carry on.***  
***And what pulls you on is not duty, or fear,***  
***but love.***

***You realise now that the paths of love and suffering are inextricably linked.***

***May you be blessed with the courage to take the next step***  
***towards the love that you seek.***

**Easter Blessings & love**

**Revd Tonya**