**I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has been raised.** (Matthew 28.5-6)

Imagine that the resurrection had not taken place. Even so all that led to Jesus’ death is remarkable.
On Maundy Thursday we looked back with Jesus to the faith of the Jews, especially in the Exodus and Passover. We saw that Jesus held a faith in God that was firm, beyond normal.
On Good Friday we saw that on the cross Jesus showed us the love that God has for us all.

If this was the end it would still be encouraging. It would help us trust God too in our hardships, and come to see that if God truly does love us, what have we to fear. This is all good.

This is often how we look at the death of someone we have loved. I think of the recent death of Sharon’s father. He had a faith which survived many hardships, he knew and shared God’s love. I know that Sharon and her family will be strengthened by this on the day of the funeral and beyond. This is all good.

But there is one thing missing – hope. Death seems to counteract and destroy hope. What has Sharon’s mother now to look forward to after over 60 years together?

This is why resurrection is also imp. For Jesus, it proclaims that even strong death did not have the final word. It declares that the faith & love we celebrated overcomes all that is wrong in this world. It brings hope. TEXT.

How does resurrection bring us hope today?

We say, “He’s gone to a better place” – presumably heaven! We say, “We will meet up again” – ditto.

But there is hope for *this* life too - **If our hope in Christ is good for this life only and no more, then we deserve more pity than anyone else in all the world.** (1 Corinthians 15.19) Clearly Paul thought the resurrection was good for this life. Hope changes us. It isn’t wishful thinking, cross your fingers, but grounded in faith and love, based on resurrection.

It means there is life beyond Affordables, beyond Sharon’s father’s death. Hope lifts us, opens our eyes so we see what good thing God is doing. TEXT.