



Homily for The Easter Vigil
1st April 2018
St. David's Cathedral, Cardiff

Archbishop George Stack

Earth, Air, Fire and Water are the four elemental principles without which our planet would not exist and human life could not be sustained. It is no accident that on this “Nights of Nights” we should use those powerful symbols not just to teach us of the transformation this night entails, but of the deepest mysteries of our faith which bring about that transformation from death to life.

In the courtyard of the Cathedral we have shivered in the wind and breathed the cold air, and protected the candle from the breeze which gives us life. In the Greek language, the same word for wind and air is used for the Spirit of God which hovers over the deep at creation and sustains our journey of life and love – Pneuma.

In a few moments we shall bless and be sprinkled with the Easter water, the Holy Water of Baptism. Water which is a symbol and much more than a symbol of purification and life. No wonder it is used in Baptism to remind us of death to old things and resurrection to new life, God’s life, in which we are allowed to share.

I hope you saw the extraordinary Easter Garden as you entered the Cathedral by candlelight. The cross at its centre is plunged deep into the heart of the earth. It reminds us of the wonderful motto of the Carthusian Order: The cross stands still while the world turns. Perhaps it is when we suffer most that we feel the power of the cross. It is only when we embrace the cross, said Cardinal Hume, that it yields up its mystery. Where is God in the midst of human suffering and death? “Here”, says Jesus with arms outstretched on the cross.

All of these truths are re-presented during the Holy Communion with Jesus Christ which we receive during this First Mass of Easter. We certainly receive Jesus in Holy Communion at that sacred moment. But equally we are received by Him into Communion with the life of God Himself. “The Body of Christ” the priest asks each communicant as he holds the host aloft. “Amen” is the reply. “I believe”.

***CHRIST IS OUR LIGHT ALLELUIA
RISEN IN GLORY ALLELUIA***