

focus on sunday

EASTER DAY OF THE LORD'S RESURRECTION 20th April 2025

A day of hope: of flowers and candles, new colour and new light.
A day of smiles and of friendship, new joy and new companionship
in Christ. A day of hope for those who suffer and who are sad.
A day which promises the victory of God's love over sin and death.



When they saw Jesus' clothes in the tomb they knew something had happened. Then they remembered he had spoken of rising from the dead. John realised that this is what he meant..

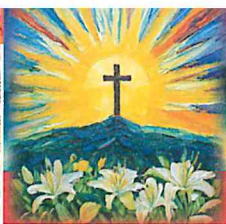
they would no longer find him among the dead but among the living. From now on he would appear to them, then be taken to heaven and live with them in a new life. The cloths were left behind because he would not need them any longer.

He would live among them and within their community. They would find him when they looked for him, when they walked and discussed about him, and in a simple meal of grilled fish.

The same for us. When we meet in prayer together, in forgiveness and reconciliation, and in our works for peace and justice and in the Eucharist, he is with us, the One risen from the dead.

Lord, by your cross and resurrection, you have set us free. You are the saviour of the world.

Donal Neary SJ, Editor Sacred Heart Messenger



RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Dear brothers and sisters, through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may walk with him in newness of life.

And so, now that our Lenten observance is concluded, let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and his works and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church. And so I ask you:

P. Do you renounce Satan? C. I do.

P. And all his works? C. I do.

P. And all his empty show? C. I do.

P. Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth? C. I do.

P. Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, Our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father? C. I do.

P. Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting? C. I do.

P. And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins, keep us by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord, for eternal life. Amen.

The priest may sprinkle the people with the blessed water, while all sing:

I saw water flowing from the Temple, from its right-hand side, alleluia; and all to whom this water came were saved and shall say: Alleluia, alleluia.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray brothers and sisters,

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Exultant with paschal gladness, O Lord, we offer the sacrifice by which your Church is wondrously reborn and nourished. Through Christ our Lord.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith.

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

the dead - and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps.117:1-2.16-17.22-23

R. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.' (R)

2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up.

I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds. (R)

3. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. (R)

SECOND READING Colossians 3:1-4

A reading from the letter of St. Paul's to the Colossians

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed - and he is your life - you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Christ, our passover has been sacrificed; let us celebrate the feast then, in the Lord. Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 20: 1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said, 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia. You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia. Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.

PENITENTIAL ACT

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit:
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
You bring pardon and peace to the sinner:
Christ have mercy. Christ have mercy.
You bring light to those in darkness:
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.



THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father you take away the sins of the world:

have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father have mercy on us;

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.



OPENING PRAYER

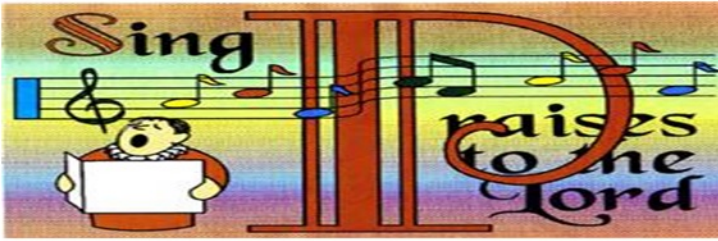
O God, who on this day, through your Only Begotten Son, have conquered death and unlocked for us the path to eternity, grant, that we who keep the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit, rise up in the light of life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Acts 10:34. 37-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses - we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from



Entrance Hymn

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!

Sinners wipe your tears away, Alleluia!
 Who died upon the cross, Alleluia!
 Saving us from endless loss, Alleluia!

Go tell all His breather dear, Alleluia
 He is risen, He is not here, Alleluia
 Seek Him not among the dead, Alleluia
 He is risen as He said, Alleluia

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
 Unto Christ, our heavenly king, Alleluia!
 Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
 Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!

For the pains which He endured, Alleluia!
 Our salvation have procured, Alleluia!
 Now above He reigns as King, Alleluia!
 Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!
 He is risen, He is risen, He is risen. Alleluia!

Majesty, worship His Majesty.

Unto Jesus be all glory, honour and praise!
 Majesty, Kingdom Authority,
 Flow from His throne, unto His own
 His anthem raise!

So exalt, lift up on high the Name of Jesus!
 Magnify, come glorify, Christ Jesus the King.
 Majesty, worship His Majesty;
 Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all kings

Regina Caeli Laetare

Regina caeli laetare, alleluia:
 Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia:
 Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia:
 Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.

Reflections on our Christian Understanding of Hope

WHAT IS HOPE?

Hope is the power by which we firmly and constantly long for what we were placed on earth to do:

to praise God and serve God
 to find our fulfilment and true happiness in God
 to keep in mind our final home in God.

(YOUCAT, 308)

Hope is trusting in what God has promised us
 in creation
 in the prophets

but especially in Jesus Christ,
 even though we do not yet see it.

(YOUCAT, 308)

Hope is Kingdom directed,
 it is humankind's encourager,
 it sustains us in times of abandonment,
 it opens our heart to expect eternal life.

Hope energises us,
 preserves us from selfishness
 and leads to the happiness that flows from
 charity. (CCC 1818)



IN THIS JUBILEE YEAR

when we are all pilgrims of hope we pray that:
 We will remain faithful and forgive others from
 our heart

We will support the abandoned and
 marginalised

We will see God in every person

We will protect and care for our common home
 We will renounce our own comfort for the sake
 of others

We will be united in prayer and service with all
 Christians.