



Easter Sunday

He saw
and
he believed.



The Empty Tomb

The Gospel for the Mass of Easter morning is taken from St John's gospel. John gives us the words of Mary Magdalen:

'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

Mary goes to tell Peter and John and they both run to the tomb and witness the empty tomb. The body has not been stolen as the burial cloths are there, neatly rolled up. The empty tomb itself proves nothing but is clearly seen to be a sign that hints at what has happened. John immediately goes from the appearance of the sign to faith in the reality it points to:

*He saw and he believed.
Till this moment they had failed to understand
the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.*

Happy Easter!
Welcome
to our Visitors



We always have a good number of visitors on Easter Sunday; people visiting family or returning to the parish to which they belonged some time ago. A very happy Easter welcome to you all.

and thank you....

...to all those who have enabled us to celebrate Holy Week and the Easter Triduum so worthily. So much is done by so many people especially behind the scenes, so at the risk of missing out someone... (and in no particular order)...

...sacristans, altar servers, musicians, ministers of Communion, readers, flower buyers/arrangers, Easter garden builders, Cross carriers, Paschal Fire Makers, Paschal candle artist, those who volunteered to have their feet washed, Easter Singers.... And, as always, all those who spend so much time and effort cleaning the Churches.

FAITH IN FOCUS: FULLY ALIVE

We can't begin to imagine what it must have been like for Christ's followers. They were faced with the fact that although he had been crucified and had died, he was now alive!

The resurrection is a mind-boggling event. It means that the ultimate threat to humanity, death itself, no longer has power over us.

That's because the resurrection is not something that just happened to Jesus. It reaches us too. For we Christians are now alive with a life that goes beyond mere human existence. We are alive in God through Jesus Christ.

To live resurrection life means that we can believe. Life ceases to be futile. We have the faith to recognise that all creation comes from God and is redeemed by Christ's victory over death. We profess with our tongues and our lives that God is so concerned about us that he sent Jesus to show us how to live and how to usher in the kingdom of God.

To be alive with the life of the risen Jesus means that we are able to trust. Life ceases to be hopeless. We know that God did not abandon Jesus in his hour of need and will not abandon us either. The resurrection give us a confident expectation that wherever we turn we will find God at our side.

Whatever our problem, God promises to be with us until the end of time. Our life will not end in the grave.

Sharing the risen life of Jesus means that we can care. Life ceases to be noxious. God cared about us to the point of giving his all. We too can learn to care about others with a superhuman strength that is made possible only by God's grace. We can give our all, nothing held back, until it hurts.

Believing, trusting, caring. This is how the resurrection changes us. We become more fully alive to ourselves and to God. Believing, trusting, caring: faith, hope and love.

**When we live these,
then we are fully alive!**

Archbishop McMahon's Easter Message

We live in a time of uncertainty, events in Syria and the wider Middle East offer only confusion and fear for the future. Political change over the last year, forthcoming elections in Europe and Brexit make us lose direction, and often hope too. We live in a rapidly changing world with events fuelled by rumour and fake news, it can be difficult to establish the truth and to know what is happening. Our lives are turned upside down with the drama of events.

In Holy Week, we remember the events of almost two thousand years ago in Jerusalem. A time of uncertainty, fear of the unknown, confusion and drama. Every bit of human emotion can be found in those days: rumour, betrayal, death, love: and it is love that ultimately triumphs bringing peace, joy and unity.

The disciples, the followers of Jesus, were committed to his message, they listened to him and learned from him, he was the One they had been waiting for, the Messiah, the Saviour: everything was going to be fine, nothing could go wrong...and then. Fickle jeering crowds who welcomed him to Jerusalem, then turned against him. Authorities who didn't accept him, tortured him and made him die the death of a criminal. It was the end of the road for his followers who scattered and fled in their fear.

Things were very dark on that first Good Friday, and yet they were soon to change. Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples found an empty tomb and life was transformed in a way unthinkable just a few days earlier. It is the hope that the resurrection brings which can transform our lives today in a world of uncertainty.

The Easter message gives us something to unify around: hope triumphing from the jaws of despair and defeat. It is the powerful testimony at the heart of our Christian witness, the fulfilment of the promise that God has sent his Son to save the world. This is what lies at the heart of the difference we can make as Christians. It is a basic truth and hope that the world is crying out for. It is the hope we can offer. This hope that Easter brings is too precious to keep to ourselves, we need to share it, shout it, broadcast it to the world. That Jesus is alive, that He saves us, that He wants to know us and for us to know him.

Gift Aid Boxes The new set of boxes for the coming year are available at the back of OLMC church. If anyone would like to gift aid their weekly contribution please see me or Roland Berndt. For every £1 you give the church gets 25p back from the Inland Revenue.

Pastoral Area Retreat/Days of Reflection These were started in St Francis, Garston a few years ago. Now the organisers wish to branch out to other parts of the Pastoral Area, so a mid week session will be held in St Patrick's Church on Wednesday and Thursday 26/27 April from 10.30-2pm. See the poster and leaflets for details.

Easter Raffle OLMC The draw will take place after the 11.15 Mass. Tickets still available.

John Southworth



MASSES AND SERVICES

In Church this week

- Monday Mass at 10am
- Requiem Mass on Wednesday at 1.30pm replaces the 10am Mass.
- No Mass Thursday and Friday.

The RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

15th April

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil

9pm Parishioners OLMC

16th April Easter Sunday

9.45am Patsy Reegan & Family St Patrick

11.15am Michael Foley OLMC

Monday 17th April

10am Andrea Squires OLMC

Tuesday 18th April

7pm Maria Carney OLMC

Wednesday 19th April

1.30pm **Requiem:** Bobby Fowler St Patrick

Thursday 20th April

10am NO MASS St Patrick

Friday 21st April

10am NO MASS OLMC

Sunday 23rd April

SECOND SUNDAY of EASTER

Sat 5pm Ann & Owen Barry OLMC

Sun 9.45am Sr Johanna St Patrick

Sun 11.15am Parishioners OLMC

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

NONE next Saturday

Thursday Evening Service

NONE this Thursday

Bonus Ball / Mount Carmel and St Patrick

The bonus ball for Wednesday No 50

Collections

Many thanks

Mount Carmel

Sat Envelopes £ 112.55 Loose £108.35

Sun Envelopes £24.00 Loose £114.16

Total £359.06

St Patrick

Envelopes £0 Loose £156.77 Total £156.77

Please Pray For.... Those who have died: Bobby Fowler

The sick: Billy Thompson, Freya Matheson, Pat & Brian Smedley, Bernadette Morgan, Rene Humphreys, Clifford Browne, Gary Hollinson, Jackie Heath-Anderson, Ted Cunningham, Anne Deuchar, Charlotte Rice, Irene Finneran, Lisa Balshaw, Mary Kewley, Claire Kearney, Lyn Barton, Betty Devine, Tony Jones, Kathleen Devine, Joseph Baxendale, Ann Chapman, Nadia Kent, Susan Roberts, Alex Sielski, Lee Foster, Paula Lacey, Denise King, John Dunning, Tommy Huyton, Emily Rolands, Angela Kent, David Majoury, Donald Smith, Pius Laizer, Maria Jones, Mary O'Toole, Sally Wilkins, Michael Murphy, Margaret Chung, David Stevenson, Thomas & John Paul Conroy, Keith Holden, Kathleen Crownly, Joanne Fairbrother, Eileen Edwards, Erin Caulfield, Lisa Ginley, Lillian O'Connor, Owen Hall, Anne Brannigan, Thelma Mainwaring, Cheryl and Lenny Hart, Sheila Chapman, Elaine Gorry, Alexandra Reid, Winifred Williamson, Kathryn Reid, Wally Williams, Chrissy White, Nicholas Maher, John Hodson, Terry Macklin, Muriel Minshull, Peter Bengler, Maureen Ryan, Mary Ryan, Regna Lewis, David Shea, Steven Binks, Teresa Koo, Holly and Lucy Brown.