

# Easter Sunday

## The Resurrection of the Lord



**FAITH IN FOCUS:  
HARD EVIDENCE**

Easter's a time of faith. It's a time for deepening our faith and a time for reflecting on it.

It's easy to have faith when we're together in church. Like the early Christian community we feel the support of other people, we feel part of the family and even when we're a bit low we can be carried along in faith by the words of the prayers, by the songs we sing and the music we hear.

When we renew our baptismal faith in the words of the Creed it's easy to believe. In fact, believing in things, in facts and events is not hard at all. You either do or don't believe that Christ was born for us and that he suffered for us and rose from the dead. The same goes for believing what we claim about one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church etc.

But as we see in today's gospel with Thomas, it can sometimes be hard to believe when belief involves trusting in a person rather than just agreeing to facts. Thomas wanted some hard evidence before he would believe that Jesus really had appeared to his friends after the resurrection. He found it difficult to trust.

We too have to learn to recognise Jesus, not as the disciples did physically, but through the sometimes dimmer light of faith.

We are called to the light of the resurrection, to learn to recognise Christ and follow him in that trusting faith whose shadow we glimpse both in desolation and consolation. Jesus himself tells us that we will be blessed if we can believe with this type of faith. And so we look for the light of the resurrection not only in its obvious religious haunts, not only in the robust expressions of confidence but also in the unexpected recesses of our lives.

We can see it even in distress and disaster, in the faces of those who shine with its light, in the glimmers of new hope that so often flicker after seemingly overwhelming distress.

Faith is Easter's gift; and it is also Easter's quest. We never fully exhaust it and we always need to pray for it to persevere in us.

Today, in the echo of last week's tumultuous events surrounding the resurrection, Jesus approaches us more quietly and invites us to renew our faith and trust.

**Doubt no longer, but believe.**

**H***e saw  
and he believed.  
Till this moment  
they had failed to understand  
the teaching of scripture...*

### The Empty Tomb

The Easter Gospels tell the Easter story. At the Easter Vigil on Saturday night we read Mark this year.

The Mass of Easter morning is always 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.'*



The same 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... and thank you....

...to all those who have enabled us to celebrate Holy Week and the 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.... And those who accompanied me in the rain as we carried the Eucharist from St Patrick's to OLMC on Maundy Thursday for the Watching at the altar of repose.

And last, but by no means least, all those who do so many different ministries in the church over the year.



EASTER

**Gift Aid Boxes** This is the last week of the current boxes. New boxes will be available next week.

**An Evening of Music** by Joanne Wallace with Martin Fletcher St Patrick's Church, Friday 13th April at at 7.30pm. Tickets £5 (proceeds go to charity) available in the sacristy of OLMC and St Patrick or at the parish office during the week.

**OLMC - Repairs to the porch** The second phase of the renovation will take place soon—the porch. Parishioners will be aware of the need for repairs as they, so often have had to step over the puddles! The work will be done by the same firm who di the work on the roof, It will begin on 23rd April and will take about 4 weeks. Masses and services will not be affected, nor will funerals.

**Adoremus: National Eucharistic Congress**

**Holy Hour** The next Holy Hour is at St Anthony of Padua Church, Allerton, Thursday 12th April at 7.30pm. This will be led by Archbishop Malcolm McMahon.

*John Southworth*

## Easter Message

of the Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon OP, Archbishop of Liverpool.



Easter Day has dawned, a day like no other. A day filled with joy so great that we cannot begin to describe it. In these last days as we have remembered the events of the holiest week of the year we have experienced every human emotion: triumph, betrayal, suffering, pain, and desolation. Our remembrance goes back 2,000 years and yet those emotions are very much alive in our world; in our lives today.

The joy that the resurrection of Jesus brought to his followers is also alive for us today. It is a joy that will never end. I was privileged to attend the funeral of Sir Ken Dodd last week in Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral: one emotion, one word which shone through his life was happiness. He sang, 'I thank the Lord that I've been blessed with more than my share of happiness'.

Today we feel our own happiness as we celebrate the resurrection, and yet it is only a shadow of the happiness which is to come, which the risen Lord wants for us.

Ken would wish people 'happiness always' and that is what we have today. Through the resurrection of Jesus we know that death has been conquered and that we are assured of an eternal life, a happiness the like of which we have never experienced before, one which will last for ever.

The journey which is Holy Week reminds us of the trials of life through which we will rise to life. Through the Cross Jesus has drawn all people to himself and through his resurrection he has transformed our lives and given us all the gift of eternal happiness.

If we let the light of the risen Christ into our lives and those of our families it will bring an inner peace and happiness as we experience the mercy of God in the ordinary things of life.

## MASSES AND SERVICES

### In Church this week

- Monday Mass at 10am.
- Requiem of Wednesday replaces the 10am Mass.

## EASTER

### The RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

#### Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil

9pm Parishioners OLMC

#### Easter Sunday

Sunday 1st April

Sun 9.45am Mary Morgan St Patrick

Sun 11.15am Pat Smedley OLMC

Mon 2nd April

10am Private Intention OLMC

Tue 3rd April

7pm Baptism Anniversary OLMC

Wed 4th April

10am No Mass

12 noon **Requiem:** Frances Toohey St Patrick

2.30pm **Funeral Service:** Evelyn Crewe St Patrick

Thu 5th April

10am Richard Gerard St Patrick

Fri 6th April

10am Vera Kelly OLMC

### 2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER

#### Sunday 7th April

Sat 5pm Parishioners OLMC

Sun 9.45am Vincent Merutia St Patrick

Sun 11.15am Alan Parris OLMC

**Evening Service:** None this week

#### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

None next Saturday

### **Bonus Ball / Mount Carmel and St Patrick**

The bonus ball for Wednesday 28th March: No 45.

### **Collections** .....Many thanks

**OLMC** Sat Loose £134.40 Sun Loose £112.50

Envelopes £135.50 Total £382.40

**St Patrick** Envelopes £0 Loose £126.80

Box £ 15.70 Brick £5.00 Donation £500

**Please Pray For.... Those who have died:** Frances Toohey, Evelyn Crewe, Daniel Rice, Terence Carney

**The sick:** Betty Flannery, Tony Robinson, Carol Pickford, Betty Billingsley, Sharon Gray, Tommy Duffy, Mary Frances, Audrey McKenna Ian McCafferty, Betty Christian, Bernard Duffy, Helen Melarange, Jack Davies, Joan Higgins, Michael McNicholas, Billy Thompson, Freya Matheson, 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, Kathleen Devine, Joseph Baxendale, Ann Chapman, Nadia Kent, Susan Roberts, Alex Sielski, Lee Foster, Denise King, John Dunning, 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 Crowny, 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, Maureen Ryan, Mary Ryan, Regna Lewis, David Shea, Steven Binks.