



# Easter Sunday



**T**ill this moment  
they had failed to understand  
the teaching of scripture,  
that he must rise  
from the dead.

John 20:9

## 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, namely the Resurrection.

### Synod Prayer

**Father, we thank you  
for the love you have shown us  
in the gift of Jesus, your Son.  
We thank you for the gift of the Church,  
through which you show us  
that you are always with us  
and are always at work in our lives.**

**As we journey together to Synod 2020  
help us become the Church  
That you are calling us to be.**

**May your Holy Spirit  
be powerfully at work among us.  
Strengthen each of us and guide Francis,  
our Pope and Malcolm, our Archbishop.**

**Help us to respond  
to the challenges of our times in new ways  
to bring your love  
to all our sisters and brothers.**

**We make this prayer  
through Jesus Christ Our Lord.**

**AMEN**



### FAITH IN FOCUS: THE COSMIC LAUGH

Even the greatest human mind can't grasp the resurrection, for it defies understanding. Christians know when where and why it happened but they don't know how. They simply know that it did. It's the central tenet of Christian faith and the most important event in world history. But for a world that relies on DNA, on witnesses, CCTV and physical evidence the resurrection doesn't add up. After all, dead bodies don't just get up and walk away.

Easter Sunday is God's day of cosmic laughter. The power of evil could not contain Christ. Death had no hold over him. All that afflicts humanity, all that makes our days heavy was swept away as the stone was rolled from the tomb. God laughed in the face of the puny attempts to reduce the dignity of human existence. The forces of darkness were dispersed by the glorious brilliance of resurrection light.

Resurrection is about the grandeur of God, about a new dawn scattering all that seeks to drag us down. It's a jubilant reminder that God rules over creation and is capable of turning our ideas about reality on their heads. For microscopes cannot manage mystery and physics flounders in the face of faith. When Jesus rose from the dead he proved that there is more to life than meets the eye. And only eyes of faith can enjoy the vision that is resurrection.

The events of Easter Sunday reveal that we are designed and destined for more than physical existence. Out of despair comes hope; from weakness arises strength; pain becomes peace and sorrow changes to joy. From death there springs new life, a risen life promising that nothing can possibly keep us from that deep quality, that eternal life which Jesus offers us by shattering the doors of the tomb.

Today we join in God's laughter. We laugh with the Father who tames our darkest fears, reconciles us and lets his glory been seen. We laugh with the Son who by rising from the dead takes on our weakness and turns it into strength. We laugh with the Spirit who goes before us as our hope and inspiration.

And "Alleluia" is our song!

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**THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION**

We welcome to God’s family and our parish community Jason & Atlanta Wallace who are to be baptised and also congratulate Jessica Hughes who is to be confirmed during the Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday.

Please remember them and their families in your prayers.

**First Holy Communion:** Please keep those children from St Patrick’s Primary School, who will be celebrating the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time, in your prayers. We pray for blessings on them, their families, Godparents and also for the teachers and catechists who helped to prepare them for this very special day which will be on Saturday 27th April at 11am at St Patrick’s. We warmly welcome them into our parish family.



**From Fr Silviu:**

I would like to thank all those who have supported and generously given of their time during Holy Week, culminating in our joyful celebration of the Light of Christ returning to our lives during the Easter Vigil. You are what makes our community so special, and your warmth, friendship and commitment to the Church, to our parish and to each other is a testament to the faith and love you so willingly share. I wish you all a very joyful Easter!



**Mass Books:**

Pope Francis is passionate about the environment – you may have read his encyclical “Laudato Si” (Praise be to you). We are trying in our own small way to cut down the amount of paper we use and printing we do, so will be using Mass Books where possible. It’s a small effort in caring for the world in which we live, but each modest step will help bring about a greater change.

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

**There will be no Bonus Ball this weekend.**

**MASSES AND SERVICES**

In Church this week

- Please note Mass on Monday is at 10am

**The Resurrection of the Lord**

**Easter Vigil**

9pm Saturday Ann & Owen Barrie OLMC

**Easter Sunday**

9.45am Paddy Burgess St Patrick  
11.15am Parishioners OLMC

Monday 22nd April

10am Mary, Christine & Baby Charlotte McKenna OLMC

Tuesday 23rd April

7pm Pintos Family OLMC

Wednesday 24th April

10am Jean Hill St Patrick

Thursday 25th April

10am Francis Comer St Patrick

Friday 26th April

10am Irene Rowas OLMC

Sunday 27th April

**2nd SUNDAY of Easter**

Sat 5pm Bridget Collins Joyce OLMC

Sun 9.45am Parishioners St Patrick

Sun 11.15am Patricia McDonough OLMC

**Evening Service**

Short Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

7pm Thursday OLMC

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

4-4.30pm OLMC

Collections

*Many Thanks*

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel**

Loose £274.11

**St Patrick** Loose £ 209.05

Total Envelopes £147.11

**Please Pray For....**

**The sick:** Michael McNicholas, Jayne O’Toole, Michelle Baxendale, Tommy Fletcher, Bernadette McGee, Michael Foley, Irene Milson, Maureen Rossario, Joe Schofield, Doris Kelly, Edie Turner, Daniel Crawford, Caroline Flannery, Bernadette Fennell, Edna Tate, Jimmy Tierney. Betty Flannery, Tony Robinson, Carol Pickford, Betty Billingsley, Tommy Duffy, Audrey McKenna, Ian McCafferty, Betty Christian, Bernard Duffy, Helen Melarange, Jack Davies, Joan Higgins, Billy Thompson, Freya Matheson, Rene Humphreys, Clifford Browne, Gary Hollinson, 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, 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 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, Muriel Minshull, Mary Ryan, Regna Lewis, David Shea, Steven Binks.