



Parish of St. Vincent de Paul

# Newsletter

11<sup>th</sup> April 2020

13 Hardy Street,  
Liverpool L1 5JN  
Tel: 0151 709 8589

[stvincent@rcaolp.co.uk](mailto:stvincent@rcaolp.co.uk)

FB: Vincent De Paul Church

## Mass Times

Sunday	09.00
Monday	07:30
Tuesday	07:30
Wednesday	07.30
Thursday	07:30
Friday	07.30
Saturday	07.30

## Mass Intentions

Sun 12 :	Parishioners
Mon 13:	Eileen M. Keefe
Tues 14:	Sr. Elizabeth and deceased sisters of Marian House
Wed 15:	Monica Denonzi RIP
Thu 16:	Mary Connor RIP
Fri 17:	Sr. Mary Jo (birthday)
Sat 18:	Joseph Tucker RIP



## Homily Notes

**Jesus is alive.**

**Looking for Easter eggs!**

In today's gospel we hear about Mary of Magdala, Peter and a third disciple.

They find the tomb is empty! Mary thinks the body of Jesus has been stolen, Peter does not know what to think and the other disciple sees and believes that Jesus is risen from the dead!

God has overcome the power of evil and death and has brought Jesus back to life! This is a message of great joy and hope. The celebration of Easter is the celebration of hope, that good will overcome evil! In these days of the Covid 19 crisis we need this hope.

Jesus is alive. But where do we meet the Risen Lord? In all those situations where people care for each and where solidarity is shown by neighbours, relatives, doctors, nurses and others and Thursdays at 8 pm, when people leave their houses to clap for the NHS workers. All these are moments Jesus shows himself to be alive!

When we were small, on Easter Sunday early in the morning, my parents would hide chocolate eggs in our garden. And after coming out of bed, we could go and look for them among the bushes and flowers. And what a joy to find them!

I think we find ourselves in a similar situation. We must look for Easter eggs, we must look for situations where people do good and show solidarity. And of course, we must be these Easter eggs ourselves.

All these actions of care and solidarity show that Jesus is alive! Just like Easter eggs they give us joy and hope! The joy and hope that Jesus is alive and that God will work good out of evil. *Ferdinand*

## These Days

These days, most years, our churches would be fuller than usual. Many Catholics who might not be frequent Mass goers would join the

weekly community for either the Easter Vigil Mass or the Easter Sunday Mass. Our liturgies would be more involved with the beautiful ceremonies of the Pascal Light and, in many places, the baptism of infants or adult catechumens.

These days, though, whether we are regular members of the community or on the edge, we are unable to meet in church. We are experiencing the absence of Easter in a similar way as our forefathers did in the times of persecution, in this country. Yet, their faith never died. It continued through the generations until the rebirth of the church after 1829. For more than 200 years, Catholics could only pray in their homes. They very rarely celebrated the Eucharist and still their faith survived and bloomed again.

These days, we too are, so to speak, deprived of our Eucharist and can only pray at home, within the family circle. Like our forefathers, we can keep our faith alive by developing the practice of Family Prayer and by reading Holy Scripture. Each evening, or at another convenient moment in the day, we can use the prayer guide we send you, to pray and to meditate the Word of God. If you do not have a Bible, you can download, for free, Bible apps onto your phone or tablet. Go for the Jerusalem Bible (called Catholic Bible) or the NIV... If you are not sure how to use Bible references, give us a call or write and we will help you.

In these days, by using this prayer each day, we stay in touch with God and with the other members of our St. Vincent's Parish Community. And we keep our faith alive until better days. *Terry*

## Parish Notice Board

**Lottery Results**  
**01 04 05 06 09 10**  
**Drawn 5<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

**Don't Forget**  
**6.30pm, every evening**  
**Parish Evening Prayer**  
**at home**

Wherever you are, take time to pray with all other parish members.

Let our prayer be united to help us stay faithful to the Lord and to each other during this difficult time.

*Leaflets available at the Parish House and on Facebook*

### Online Easter Events

**Live Streams (all links online)**

**Easter Sunday Mass**

**9:00am** Vincent De Paul Church

*Facebook Live ;*

**11:00am** Met Cathedral *Facebook Live*

(and recording available afterwards on *YouTube Channel*);

St Anne and St Bernard's *YouTube Channel*;

St Philip Neri Church *Facebook Live*

and [www.cathchap.org.uk](http://www.cathchap.org.uk)

**Daily Mass – 10:00am:** St Anne and St

Bernard's *YouTube Channel*

**Candle of Hope – Prayer for the World**

**8:00-8:10pm** FCJ Centre St Hugh's

*Facebook Live* materials online (not live every day)

*You are welcome to join us for Easter Sunday's  
Mass live-streamed on Facebook  
At 9am on Sunday*

*This is an edited version of a letter sent to us all for Easter by Archbishop MacMahon. The whole letter comes attached to this newsletter:*

(It is clear from the Acts of the Apostles that) "The followers of Jesus didn't understand his resurrection. The hope which had been taken from them days before was now about to be realised and they didn't know it. They saw and they believed but it was only when the Risen Lord actually appeared to them that they understood.

The Risen Lord is the same for us today as he was for his disciples. In these days in particular, we do not understand what is happening around us, but we can see the Risen Lord in the lives and work of others. Those who are caring, those who are helping and are giving their time for the good of others.

When Jesus was crucified his followers lost everything, all they had hoped for had gone, there was no future. The resurrection changed all that and hope returned. We too can have that same hope for the future if we recognise the Risen Lord and allow him into our lives.

**Let us pray that on this Easter Day the Risen Lord will greet us as he did his disciples with the words 'Peace be with you', will ease our anxieties and calm our fears that we may truly have a Happy Easter.'**

+ Malcolm



**CHRIST THE LORD**  
**IS RISEN TODAY!**

### Prayer Intentions

**Our Prayers are asked for the following who are sick:** Olivia KELLY, Molly McEVOY, Ann NEEDHAM, Pat O'Donovan, Jo PERRY, Kelly SHEPHERD

**Also for the intentions of:** Anne BAXTER, Catherine BOWLES, Lilly FLANNERY, Mary FORRISTER, Joan HART, Theresa HASTIE, John & Kathleen McGOVERN, MIDGHALL Family, Joey MORGAN, Pat O'DONOVAN, Carole & Billy RUDKIN, Shirley & Phil SCOTT, Marie SCOWAN, Beverley STAMPER, Teresa SWIFT, Nardine TANNER, Pauline WALSH, Lydia WARREN, WILLIAMS Family, Terri VALIANT

Pope Francis & all religious leaders, also the priests of our Parish

Pray for those who are suffering with this disease across the world,

ALL NHS staff and ALL key workers.

Thanksgiving prayers for the Hart family who have come through the virus

**And for those who have died:** Monica DENONZI, Maureen DOYLE, Mary CONNOR, Kevin FOY, Ann REDMOND, Jessie THOMAS, Joseph TUCKER died 3/4/20: John ROWAN (anniversary)

*Our good friend, Fr. Peter Morgan of St Anne and St Bernard's, shared this article with his parishioners and we would like to share it with you... It helps us enter into the meaning of Easter for each one of us: a mystery, as says the author, beyond our understanding. Thank you, Peter, for sharing this with us.*

## **Jesus is risen, and is coming to meet you**

The Resurrection is the pivotal and joyful beginning of the new relationship we can have with God through the Risen Jesus. I believe that fully, but I would only make a poor and confused attempt to explain it. When I do try to, I soon realise that I have to be careful to let the words we commonly use in prayer and discussions draw me deeper into the mystery rather than reduce it to something I understand.

Resurrection is the main word. It means he rose from the dead – it doesn't mean he was resuscitated. If that was what happened, it would mean that God 'made it better', that he healed all the pain and the unfairness of the cross. It would also mean that Jesus came back the same as before.

We know from Scripture that Jesus wasn't the same: it was still him, but he was glorified. He had, as St. Paul says to the Hebrews, 'been perfected'. His love and trust in God had brought him through death into perfect union with God.

Once I keep this in mind, I no longer think of Jesus essentially being in heaven and occasionally 'popping in' to see his friends. His appearances are them experiencing Jesus in the way he is now present to us. This is the mystery of Easter.

The symbolism and readings of the Easter Vigil reveal the significance of the empty tomb in taking us from dark to light. The night of Christ's Passover liberates us from slavery, we are redeemed: humanity is restored to its full dignity. 'As Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.' (Romans 6).

What exactly is this new life, and will I be living it in the coming days and weeks at work, at home? If I don't, then I'm not taking seriously that there is a new life, a new way of thinking and acting, and there is no doubt that I am supposed to. St Matthew's account has Jesus appearing to the two women who were present when Jesus was laid in the tomb, after they have responded – joyfully and filled with awe – to the message given by the angel that Jesus had risen: as they went to tell the apostles, Jesus came to meet them.

If I was him, after being so cruelly treated, rejected and abandoned before being killed, I would wash my hands of humanity and 'retire' to heaven. If I did come back, it would be to say to the people 'you thought you won, but you didn't – and now you've blown it.' Fortunately, Jesus' ways are God's ways. He does return and continues to work with his followers. He says to the women that he will meet the apostles – those who, having abandoned him and are now terrified and in hiding – in Galilee, i.e. 'back home', which suggests to me that the resurrection is about a new way of living in my daily life.

In the resurrection appearances, Jesus meets people where they are and transforms them: salvation is 'through forgiveness of sins, because of the love of our God', (Luke 1:77-78). This forgiveness is not 'forgive and forget: it is refusing to let our pride and self-centredness, (as opposed to the God-centredness Jesus lived and died by) be an obstacle to living in the new relationship with God, made possible by Jesus.

I often read the gospels as though Jesus is basically a good role model, but if I listen to St. Paul and follow the Liturgy of Baptism, we don't follow in Jesus' footsteps, we become united with him. Sin has been conquered, which means that Jesus has removed all that divides us from him. When he came to meet the women and the apostles, they were transformed. Through the resurrection and the Eucharist, he comes to meet us in our lives with the same intention. Happy Easter. **Martin Bennett**

## Easter Message

### **from the Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon OP Archbishop of Liverpool**

It was early in the morning on the first day of the week when the women went to the tomb taking spices to anoint the body of Jesus according to their custom. When they got to the tomb they found the stone rolled away and the body of Jesus had gone, instead they saw a young man dressed in white, an angel, who told them 'He has risen, he is not here, see the place where they laid him'. Their reaction wasn't one of delight, they couldn't understand what was happening, they were afraid, and they ran to tell the disciples. Peter and John ran to the tomb, they saw, and they believed, but like the women they did not understand what had happened.

The Risen Lord then appeared to Mary Magdalen who, thinking that his body had been stolen, was standing by the tomb weeping. She didn't recognise him, she thought he was the gardener, and it was only when he spoke her name that she knew him and having seen him understood.

That same day two of the disciples were walking to Emmaus, a village about seven miles from Jerusalem, when another traveller, Jesus, joined them on the road. They didn't recognise him and told him about everything that had happened. When they reached Emmaus they invited the 'mystery traveller' to stay with them and when he broke the bread at the table they recognised Jesus and, even though it was late, they went back to Jerusalem to tell the disciples.

It was eight days later when Jesus appeared to the disciples that Thomas recognised the Risen Lord. He had refused to believe, he wanted proof and Jesus gave him that proof saying, 'doubt no longer but believe'. He then went further and said, 'have you believed because you have seen me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe'.

The followers of Jesus didn't understand his resurrection. The hope which had been taken from them days before was now about to be realised and they didn't know it. They saw and they believed but it was only when the Risen Lord actually appeared to them that they understood.

The Risen Lord is the same for us today as he was for his disciples. In these days in particular, we do not understand what is happening around us, but we can see the Risen Lord in the lives and work of others. Those who are caring, those who are helping and are giving their time for the good of others.

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12 April 2020



L I V E R P O O L    A R C H D I O C E S A N    O F F I C E

Croxteth Drive | Liverpool | L17 1AA | [www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk](http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk)

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