



St. David's Parish  
Monastery Road, Pantasaph,  
Holywell. CH8 8PE



April 9, 2023

## **The Resurrection of the Lord The Mass of Easter Day**

“But if Christ is preached as raised from the dead, how can some among you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then neither has Christ been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then empty [too] is our preaching; empty, too, your faith. Then we are also false witnesses to God, because we testified against God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, neither has Christ been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain; you are still in your sins. Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are the most pitiable people of all”. (*Cor 15:12-19*)

### **READINGS**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading**     **Acts 10:34a, 37-43**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**     **Col 3:1-4/ 1 Cor 5:6b-8**

**Gospel**             **Jn 20:1-9**

**Introduction: Significance of Easter:** Easter is the greatest and the most important feast in the Church. It marks the birthday of our eternal hope. "Easter" literally means "the feast of fresh flowers." We celebrate it with pride and jubilation for three reasons:

**1) The Resurrection of Christ is the basis of our Christian Faith**, for it proves that Jesus is God. That is why St. Paul writes: *“If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain; and your Faith is in vain... And if Christ has not been raised, then your Faith is a delusion, and you are still lost in your sins... But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep”* (I Cor 15:14, 17, 20). In the words of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: "The Resurrection of Jesus is the crowning truth of our Faith in Christ, a Faith believed and lived as the central truth by the first Christian community; handed on as fundamental by Tradition; established by the documents of the New Testament; and preached as an essential part of the Paschal mystery along with the cross..." (CCC # 638). If Jesus Christ did not rise from the dead, then the Church is a fraud and Faith is a sham. But if Jesus really did rise from the dead, his message is true! Without the Resurrection, Jesus would have remained forever a good person who had met a tragic end. People would remember some of his teachings, and a handful of people might try to live according to them. All the basic doctrines of Christianity are founded on the truth of the Resurrection. *“Jesus is Lord; He is risen!”* (Rom 10:9) was the central theme of the *kerygma* (or "preaching"), of the apostles. There is a story of two women who stood before Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. One asked, "Why can't we build structures like this anymore?" Her friend answered, "The people who built this had Faith. Today we have only opinions. And you can't build a cathedral with opinions."

**2) Easter is the guarantee of our own resurrection**. Jesus assured Martha at the tomb of Lazarus: *“I am the Resurrection and the Life; whoever believes in Me will live even though he die”* (Jn 11:25-26). Christ will raise us up on the last day, but it is also true, in a sense, that we have already risen with Christ. By virtue of the Holy Spirit, our Christian life is already a participation in the death and Resurrection of Christ (CCC #1002, #1003).

**3) Easter is a feast which gives us hope and encouragement in this world of pain, sorrows, and tears**. Easter reminds us that life is worth living. It is our belief in the Real Presence of the Risen Jesus -- in our souls, in His Church, in the Blessed Sacrament, and in Heaven -- that gives meaning to our personal as well as to our common prayers. Our trust in the all-pervading presence of the Risen Lord gives us strength to fight against temptations and freedom from unnecessary worries and fears. The prayer of St. Patrick, the Apostle of Ireland, reads: *“Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ within me, never to part.”*

**4) Reasons why we believe in the Resurrection of Jesus:** (a) **Jesus himself testified to his Resurrection from the dead** (Mark 8:31; Matthew 17:22; Luke 9:22). (b) **The tomb was empty on Easter Sunday** (Luke 24:3). Although the guards claimed (Matthew 28:13) that the disciples of Jesus had stolen the body, every sensible Jew knew that it was impossible for the terrified disciples of Jesus to have stolen the body of Jesus from a tomb guarded by a 16-member team of armed Roman soldiers. (c) **The initial disbelief of Jesus' own disciples** in his Resurrection, in spite of his repeated apparitions. This serves as a strong proof of his Resurrection. It explains why the apostles started preaching the resurrected Christ only after receiving the anointing of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. (d) **The transformation of Jesus' disciples:** The disciples of Jesus were almost immediately transformed from men who were hopeless and fearful after the crucifixion (Luke 24:21, John 20:19) into men who were confident and bold witnesses of the Resurrection (Acts 2:24, 3:15, 4:2). (e) The Jews and the Romans could not disprove Jesus' Resurrection by presenting the dead body of Jesus. (f) The apostles and early Christians would not have faced martyrdom if they were not absolutely sure of Jesus' Resurrection. (g) The Apostle Paul's conversion from a persecutor of Christians into a zealous apostle, preaching the Good News of Jesus throughout much of the Gentile world, supports the truth of Jesus' Resurrection (Galatians 1:11-17, Acts 9:1, Acts 9:24-25, Acts 26:15-18). (h) The sheer existence of a thriving, Empire-conquering early Christian Church, bravely facing three centuries of persecution, supports the truth of the Resurrection claim. (i) The New Testament witnesses do not bear the stamp of dupes or deceivers. (j) The apostles and the early Christians were absolutely sure about the Resurrection of Jesus.

#### **APRIL 2/3 COLLECTIONS & OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS**

<b>Gift Aid collection</b>	<b><i>136</i></b>
<b><i>Loose cash</i></b>	<b><i>173.23</i></b>
<b><i>Candles</i></b>	<b><i>98.36</i></b>
<b><i>Church Restoration</i></b>	<b><i>202.28</i></b>
<b><i>Thanks Giving</i></b>	<b><i>104.74</i></b>
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>714.61</u></b>

## **Please Pray for our Sick**

Ann Parry, Mary Toumaine, Patrick Nagle,  
Phillip Mc Greavy, Anthony Parry

### **SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION**

**Sacrament of Confession at 11.30 am on Saturday  
ON EMERGENCY ANY TIME 0741-749-4277**

### **MASS INTENTIONS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Offered by</b>	<b>Intentions</b>
10/04/23	Joan Oates	Anna Brizzi RIP
11/04/23	Joan Oates	Kim Pemberton RIP
12/04/23	Amanda Gardiner	Taurasi & Fulleini Families
13/04/23	Anne W Downes	John Downes
14/04/23	Russel and Edana	Angela & Adrian

### **Funeral Announcement**

The Funeral service of late Joan Alexandria Davis is scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup> 12:30 PM in St. David's Church, Pantasaph

### **ANNIVERSARIES (April-8-14)**

Glasfryn Jones: Mary Hourinhane: Desmond O'Brien, Jonathan Wilson, '05, Gladys Breckneall '92: Joan Cassidy, 2022, Robert Francis Swarbrick:, Kathleen Reilly:, Canon Oswald Murphy '82: Ivy Boulton '11, Kathleen Wilson:, Patricia Goldstraw.

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**WISH YOU HAPPY EASTER!!!!**