



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



April 14, 2024

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

MASS SCHEDULE

Vigil Mass, Saturday 4.00 pm
Sunday Mass 10.00 am
Weekday Masses - Denbigh House- Monday to Friday- 9.00 am

READINGS

First Reading: Acts 3:13-15,17-19
Second Reading: I John 2:1-5
Gospel: Luke 24:35-48

REFLECTIONS

The **First Reading**, taken from the *Acts of the Apostles 3:13-15, 17-19*, relates the story of Peter and John's meeting with a man crippled from birth who asked them for alms. Peter said he had neither gold nor silver, but he would give him something better and proceeded to heal him.

The **Second Reading** is from the *First Letter of John 2:1-5*. In this extract the Apostle is urging his fellow-Christians to avoid sin. If they should sin, they are to admit their fault and seek pardon, which will be given in abundance. He has in mind the Gnostic heretics of the time who did not keep God's commandments and yet held that they were not sinning by violating them. John exhorts Christians not to imitate these heretics.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Luke 24:35-48*. In the story of the appearance which precedes today's Gospel, we are told how two of Christ's disciples were so depressed and disorientated by his death that they were giving up all interest in the dead Master and were returning home at the first opportunity. The Apostles were no better

since Good Friday. They had remained behind locked doors for fear of the Jews. They too would have left Jerusalem that Sunday were it not for the story brought by Mary Magdalene that Christ's body had been taken from the tomb. When the risen Christ appeared to the ten Apostles they thought he was a ghost, so far were their thoughts from a possible resurrection.

When the truth sank into their minds, however, they became changed men. After Pentecost day they fearlessly proclaimed to the Jews, of whom they had been frightened, that Christ whom they crucified, have risen and was now glorified by the Father. Thousands of Jews in Jerusalem had come to believe in Christ, because they were convinced, he had risen and was the Messiah and the Son of God, as he claimed to be. The four Evangelists testify to the truth of the resurrection, and we have the exceptional witness of St. Paul whose radical change of life can have only one explanation — he saw the risen Christ on the road to Damascus.

Of the fact of the resurrection we can have no doubts; Christianity is inexplicable without it. A more important point for consideration today is what this resurrection means to us. "If Christ has not risen," says St. Paul (1 Cor. 15:17), "vain is your faith, for you are still in your sins." But "Christ has risen from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep." Our faith then is not in vain, for the founder and foundation of our faith is the Word of God who cannot deceive or be deceived, and his resurrection is the guarantee of our resurrection. He is the "first fruits," the earnest of the full harvest that was to follow after our earthly death. We shall all rise again, in glory if we have been faithful during our time on earth, in a less pleasant state, if we have not followed Christ here below.

Human life has always been the great enigma for philosophers down through the ages. The resurrection of Christ, which causes and guarantees our resurrection, is the one and only explanation of that enigma. If death were the end of man, with all his gifts of intellect and will; if the grave were to enclose forever this noble being whom God has raised above all other earthly creatures and has endowed with super-mundane gifts and aspirations, then indeed man's sojourn on earth would be an inexplicable enigma. But the gifts God gave to man were not simply to help him to make a precarious living and

enjoy a fleeting happiness, interspersed with much sadness, for sixty, seventy or even a hundred years. No, they were intended to last for eternity and to reach their real fruition in eternity.

With St. Paul then, we may well sing out today: "O death where is thy victory, O death where is thy sting?...thanks be to God who has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 15 : 55-57). Yes, Easter time is a time of rejoicing for every true Christian. It is a time for Alleluias, for praising and thanking God. Our happy future is within our reach. Our eternal happiness has been won for us by Christ and is within our grasp, if only we hold fast to the true faith of Christ, taking the rough with the smooth, going through our lesser Gethsemanes and Calvaries as Christ went through his great ones. If we do this we can hopefully await the angel who will roll back the stone from our grave one day, and allow us to enter into the glory of the eternal Easter in heaven.

GIFT AID ENVELOPE BOXES

The Gift Aid Envelope Boxes for this year are ready for collection. The Parishioners are requested to collect them from the back of the Church. Those who have not yet signed a Gift Aid Declaration Form are requested to get one from Fr. Paul. 25% of the donation given by the taxpayers will be given back to the Parish by the Government, and it will be an extra source of income for the parish.

HOUSE BLESSING

Fr. Paul and Fr. Jose will be most happy to avail themselves for the blessing of the houses of the Parishioners during the coming months. If anybody like the priests to come and bless the house, please approach Fr. Paul, and fix a convenient date and time.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS- APRIL 7, 2024

Loose cash	189.12
Gift Aid	127,00
<u>Total</u>	<u>316.12</u>

MASS INTENTIONS

DATE	OFFERED BY	INTENTION
April 13, Saturday		For the Parishioners
April 14, Sunday	Gerard Rhodes	Diane Goldstraw RIP
April 15, Monday	Joemica Dias, Maia Souza	Thanksgiving
April 16, Tuesday	Maria Philomena	Peace & job security
April 17, Wednesday	Melvel and Maria	Gift of a House
April 18, Thursday	Louise Marie	Pat Mongan
April 19, Friday	Nsebery Iwobi	Wedding Anniversary

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

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

Let us Remember the Sick in Prayer

Patrick Nagle, Philip McGreevy, Antony Parry

ANNIVERSARIES

Canon Oswald Murphy, Ivy Boult, Kathleen Wilson, Patricia Goldstraw, Fr. Gerald Catterall, Patricia Mary Goldstraw, Joan Neal, John Maguire: Fr. Bric, Canon Eveans, Michael Kohane: Kathleen Wright: Glenys Owen Bagley, Jane Morley: Fr. James Swarbrick '81: Dorothy Slattery:

DONATIONS TO THE PARISH

Account Name: Wrexham Diocesan Trust

Account Number: 08190771, Sort Code: 55-81-42

Website: <http://www.pantasaph.org>,

Email: pantasaphstdavids@gmail.com

Phone: 0741-749-4277, 01352 711053,

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