

DEANERY OF ST EDMUND CAMPION ENGLISH MARTYRS—

VALE OF THE WHITE HORSE PASTORAL AREA

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

www.hendredcatholicparish.org.uk

East Hendred Catholic Parish

Easter Week

4th- 11th April 2021



Reflection – *Christ is Risen*

We are an Easter people, Alleluia is our song. St Augustine of Hippo

THE RESURRECTION of Christ is not about the resuscitation of a corpse. Such events inevitably would be scarce and we would be looking for some so far elusive scientific explanation. Christ's Resurrection is not only about him but ushers in a new order, a new way of understanding the world. His Resurrection, as St Paul makes clear, is a resurrection in which all can share: 'For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile' (1 Cor. 15:16f).

The great divide between the scientific materialistic view and the eyes of faith is that, for the former, nothing which is not concrete, observable, and provable can command recognition. The eyes of faith see that, as well as the animal, vegetable, and mineral world, the observable cosmos, billions of years old and billions of light years in size, there is the world of the spirit. As the biochemist and theologian, Arthur Peacocke, put it a generation ago, humans are at an evolutionary stage, on a cusp, where we can reject or embrace the life of the spirit. If we fully accept it – Christians would say 'put our belief and trust in it' – then we continue to grow in the spirit. Death is simply the sloughing off of our natural body and our spirit is then raised to live with Christ, eventually to be freshly clothed as part of the new creation.

The two conflicting world views must live alongside one another for the time being and we should not be bamboozled or disheartened by the materialists' use of the word 'Enlightenment'. The true enlightenment, as the Easter liturgy puts it, is the light of Christ which rising in glory dispels the darkness of our hearts and minds. The life of the Spirit has sustained millions of faithful souls throughout the ages, many of them giving heroic witness, others losing their lives for the sake of the Gospel.

May God fill you with the joy of the Resurrection.

Fr Andrew

CONTACT DETAILS

Fr Andrew: 01235 835038 or 07976 437979
aburnham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

EASTER WEEK

4th -11th April 2021

All masses live-streamed www.churchservices.tv/easthendred

please book for Sunday masses: hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Church open from 9am each day

EASTER SUNDAY

4th April

9.30am

Solemn Mass

*[Gold]
Pro populo*

11.15am

Holy Mass (St Mary's)

Evening

No Mass

Monday

Monday in Easter Week

[White]

5th April

9.15am

Easter Mass

Tuesday

Tuesday in Easter Week

[White]

6th April

9.15am

Holy Mass

Wednesday

Wednesday in Easter Week

[White]

7th April

9.15am

Holy Mass

Thursday

Thursday in Easter Week

[White]

8th April

9.15am

Holy Mass

FM Canon Raab 1945

Friday

Friday in Easter Week

[White]

9th April

9.15am

Holy Mass

Saturday

Saturday in Easter Week

[White]

10th April

9.15am

Holy Mass

SECOND SUNDAY IN EASTERTIDE

11th April

9.30am

Parish Mass

*[White]
Pro populo*

6pm

Holy Mass

East Hendred Catholic Parish

NOTICEBOARD

EASTER SUNDAY

On Easter Sunday the two masses will be at 9.30am and 11.15am. There will be no Mass on Easter Sunday evening.

BOOKING FOR MASS

Demand means that it is helpful for those who book electronically to book each week and not to request a repeat arrangement. Those who cannot book electronically are offered a repeat arrangement on condition that they let us know in good time if they are unable to come on any occasion.

ST MARY'S OPENING

9am most days until about 5pm. Come along to Mass on weekdays. . Masks and social distancing required. Book for Sunday Mass before 12 noon on Fridays hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk After that, contact Fr Andrew on 01235 835038 or aburnham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk Space limited. Book early.

ST MARY'S ON LIVE-STREAM

Last Sunday (28th March) 320 people looked in from 169 addresses, with 110 staying long enough to take part in the Mass. Homes with more than one viewer and browsers explain the largest figure. 116 UK, 53 elsewhere.

CHARITY

To help with supplying the Didcot Foodbank, contact Veronica Paget: veronicapaget@hotmail.com or leave suitable food outside her front door. Jackymattam@btinternet.com helps with the poor locally and items for her may be left outside the door of Cozens Farm inside plastic bags. Latest need: size 12, 31/32 inch inside leg, jeans, for a young woman.

CHILDREN'S PAGES

- (1) Have you tuned into '**Morning Prayer for Children**', 9am on Sundays? It's ten minutes on Church Services TV. Nobody will mind if you're still eating your Rice Krispies or wearing your jim-jams. The theme of today's Gospel at Mass is the Resurrection of Christ.
- (2) **Special stuff for Sunday** 4th April, Easter Sunday, follows on the next couple of pages.



Speak, Lord



Acts 10:34,37-43
Psalm 117
Colossians 3:1-4
John 20:1-9

SUNDAY LITURGY FOR CHILDREN

Year B — Easter Sunday



A VERY SPECIAL DAY EASTER SUNDAY

1. One of the disciples who saw the empty tomb.

2. We remember this special day every _____.

3. Easter is when Jesus _____ from the dead.

4. All this happened on the _____ day of the week.

5. The tomb was covered by a big round _____.

6. _____ of Magdala was the first person to see the empty tomb.

	P			E	
S				A	
		R		S	
F				T	
S				E	
		M		R	

Draw Mary of Magdala, Peter and the other disciple looking at the empty tomb.



ALLELUIA

YEAR B
Easter Sunday
Sunday 4th April 2021

John 20:1-9

Before sunrise on Sunday morning, Mary of Magdala went to the tomb. As she got to the entrance, she saw that the stone had been rolled away and that the tomb was empty. She ran to the disciples, saying 'They have taken the Lord from the tomb and we don't know where they have put him!'

Peter and the disciples ran to the tomb and found it just as Mary had described, with the linen burial cloths lying on the ground. Peter went into the tomb, followed by John. Until this moment they had not understood the scriptures which has said, 'He must rise from the dead.' But now they saw, and they believed.

Reflection

Mary was returning to the tomb to embalm Jesus' body to prepare him for burial. Can you imagine how the disciples felt when they had heard Jesus body had disappeared as they ran to the tomb to look.

At that moment they began to hope that something wonderful had happened as Jesus was alive!

On Easter Sunday and throughout the season of Easter, a special candle called the Paschal candle is lit. This reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world, has destroyed death and is alive. It is a symbol of new life.

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the joy of the resurrection when you rose from the dead and were filled with new life. Help us to remember that you suffered and died on the cross for us, so that one day we, too, will share with you the joy of everlasting life.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

HOLY FATHER'S APRIL PRAYER INTENTION

We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

FIRST COMMUNION GROUP

Pray for children who have just begun First Communion Preparation through St Amand's School: Felicity, Keeleigh, Elijah, Anna, Eamonn, Luca, Mia, Isobel, Julia, Stephen, Thomas. Pray also for their families and for the catechists: Helen Ellery, Ann-Marie Kershaw, Anna Loughlin.

THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED

Baby Martha, John Castle, Petal Connell, Daniel Cuevas, John Stringer, Louise Woodhouse, Sr Catherine, Mary Wallace, Brenda Paddon, Angus Clark, Karen Greig, Kitty Teasdale, Mary McNichol, Andrew Gunn, Elizabeth Gunn, Des McNichol, Christine Robinson, Rose

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Week 4th - 10th April: Maurice Barret, Isobel Rivers, Ellen Champ, Florence Mary Eyston, Hilda Poyne, Lavinia Howard Biles, Isaac Castle, William Rivers, Lewis Northcote, Can. Raab, William Anns, Jack Linton, Winifred Mary Sykes.

GIVING: THE PARISH BY REGULAR STANDING ORDER OR GIFT

BANK DETAILS: PRCDTR East Hendred, St Mary

Sort Code: 309304 Account Number: 00877183

To arrange Gift Aid, contact : hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

A donation to the parish may be made on
www.hendredcatholicparish.org.uk

Parish Administrators

hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk is monitored by the Parish Administrator and her Assistant.

Easter Collections are for the Parish Priest, a significant part of his stipend. Thank you very much for your generosity.

East Hendred Catholic Parish



Easter Day 4th April 2021

Entrance Antiphon *Resurrexi, et adhuc tecum sum (cf Ps 139:18, 5-6)*
I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia. You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia. Too wonderful for me this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia. *Ps* O Lord, you search me and you know me: you yourself know my resting and my rising.

Collect

O God, who on this day, through your Only-Begotten Son, have conquered death and unlocked for us the path to eternity, grant, we pray, that we who keep the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection, may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit, rise up in the light of life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

First Reading

Acts 10:34, 37-43 (RSV)

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household and said: 'You know the word which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. And we are witnesses to all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and made him manifest; not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that he is the one ordained by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that every one who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

Alleluiatic Psalm*Ps 118:1-3, 15b-16, 22-24 (Revised Grail)*

Give praise to the Lord, for he is good,
his mercy endures for ever.
Let the house of Israel say:
'His mercy endures for ever.'

R/ Alleluia.

The Lord's right hand has done mighty deeds;
his right hand is exalted.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount the deeds of the Lord. **R/ Alleluia.**

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
By the Lord has this been done,
a marvel in our eyes. **R/ Alleluia.**

Second Reading*Colossians 3:1-4 (RSV)*

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Sequence*Victimae Paschali Laudes*

Christians, to the Paschal Victim
offer sacrifice and praise.

The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;
and Christ, the undefiled,
hath sinners to his Father reconciled.

Death with life contended: combat strangely ended!
Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.

Tell us, Mary: say
what thou didst see upon the way.
The tomb the Living did enclose;
I saw Christ's glory as He rose!

The angels there attesting;
shroud with grave-clothes resting.
Christ, my hope, has risen:
He goes before you into Galilee.

That Christ is truly risen
from the dead we know.
Victorious King, Thy mercy show!
Amen. Alleluia.

Gospel Acclamation

O filii et filiae

R/ Alleluia, alleluia. R/ Alleluia, alleluia.
Christ, our Passover has been sacrificed;
let us celebrate the feast then, in the Lord.
R/ Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

John 20:1-9 (RSV)

Now on the first day of the week Mary Mag'dalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran, and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Peter then came out with the other disciple, and they went toward the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first; and stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; he saw the linen cloths lying, and the napkin, which had been on his head, not lying with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not know the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

PriestDo you renounce Satan?

R/ I do
And all his works?

R/ I do
And all his empty show?

R/ I do

Priest Do you believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator heaven and earth?

R/ I do

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
Who was born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered death and was buried,
Rose again from the dead
And is seated at the right hand of the Father?

R/ I do

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit,
The Holy Catholic Church,
The Communion of Saints,
The Forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And life everlasting?

R/ I do

Prayer over the Offerings

Exultant with paschal gladness, O Lord, we offer the sacrifice by which your Church is wondrously reborn and nourished. Through Christ our Lord.

Preface

(De mysterio paschali)

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, at all times to acclaim you, O Lord, but on this day above all to laud you yet more gloriously, when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed. For he is the true Lamb who has taken away the sins of the world; by dying he has destroyed our death, and by rising, restored our life. Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praise, and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts, sing together the unending hymn of your glory, as they acclaim: Holy, holy, holy &c.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

after St Alphonsus Liguori (18th cent.)

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Even if I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there, and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

+ + + + +

O come to my heart, Lord Jesus. There is room in my heart for you.

Communion Antiphon

Pascha nostrum immolatus (1 Cor 5:7-8)

Christ, our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia; therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

Look upon your Church, O God, with unflinching love and favour, so that, renewed by the paschal mysteries, she may come to the glory of the resurrection. Through Christ our Lord.

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Scripture Reading (Easter Week)

Easter Monday Acts 2:14, 22-33 Matthew 28:8-15

Easter Tuesday Acts 2:36-41 John 20:11-18

Easter Wednesday Acts 3:1-10 Luke 24:13-35

Easter Thursday Acts 3:11-26 Luke 24:35-48

Easter Friday Acts 4:1-12 John 21:1-14

Easter Saturday Acts 4:13-21 Mark 16:9-15

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

Acts 4:32-35

1 John 5:1-7

John 20:19-31

Ant.
6.
R E-gí-na cáeli * læ-tá-re, alle-lú-ia: Qui- a
quem me-ru- ísti portá-re, alle-lú-ia: Re-surréx-it,
si-cut dix-it, alle-lú-ia: Ora pro no-bis De-um,
alle-lú- ia.

Joy to thee, O Queen of heaven, alleluia.
he whom thou wast meet to bear, alleluia.
as he promised hath arisen, alleluia.
pour for us to God thy prayer, alleluia.

V/ Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia:
R/ for the Lord has risen indeed, alleluia.

FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY



4th – 10th April 2021

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and on those in the tombs bestowing life! — *From the Easter liturgy of St. John Chrysostom used by the Orthodox and by the Eastern Rite Catholics*

Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ, let us worship, the holy Lord Jesus, the only Sinless One! We venerate Thy Cross, O Christ, and Thy Holy Resurrection we praise and glorify; for Thou art our God, and we know no other than Thee; we call on Thy name. Come, all you faithful, let us venerate Christ's Holy Resurrection! For, behold, through the Cross joy has come into all the world. Let us ever bless the Lord, praising His Resurrection. By enduring the Cross for us, He destroyed death by death! — *From Hymn to the Resurrection from the Orthodox Liturgy*

Monday in Easter Week

5th April 2021

Collect

O God, who give constant increase to your Church by new offspring: grant that your servants may hold fast in their lives to the Sacraments they have received in faith. Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

Reading

Acts 2:14. 22-33 (RSV)

Peter preaches the Resurrection on the Day of Pentecost

Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, 'Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words.²².... Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs which God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—²³ this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴ But God raised him up, having loosed the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ²⁵ For David says concerning him,

**'I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken;
²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover my flesh will dwell in hope.
²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
nor let your Holy One see corruption.
²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'**

²⁹ 'Brethren, I may say to you confidently of the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants upon his throne, ³¹ he foresaw and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³ Being therefore exalted at the right hand of

God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this which you see and hear.

Reflection

IN TODAY'S First Reading, we encounter Peter, leading of the apostolic band, preaching in Jerusalem. It's the Day of Pentecost, the day when the apostles received the gift of the Holy Spirit 'like the rush of a mighty wind' and with what appeared as 'tongues of fire' (Acts 2:2, 3). Frightened men are emboldened to proclaim the Gospel of the Resurrection.

We might be surprised that, in a city like Jerusalem, there would be anyone who hadn't heard about the Death and Resurrection of Jesus. After all, we are speaking of what were recent events in a particular location. But in the Pentecost account we hear that there are Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and a whole list of other places. At the time of the Pentecost festival, Jews from the diaspora would crowd into Jerusalem. So begins the Gospel mission to people of every country and language.

Peter has something of a hard job to do. There were plenty of clever interpreters of Jewish scripture and tradition. How would he, a fisherman, manage to speak into this culture with an authentic message, re-interpreting some Scriptural texts to show that they pointed to the Good News of Jesus Christ? Our passage comes after the prophecy of Joel, with which Peter begins, and we see Peter tackling the difficult message that the Messiah who was slain is resurrected to life. This he does using Psalm 16, today's psalm, as an explanation of how God rescues his Holy One from Hades and preserves his body incorrupt.

Tuesday in Easter Week

6th April

Collect

O God, who have bestowed on us paschal remedies, endow your people with heavenly gifts, so that possessed of perfect freedom, they may rejoice in heaven over what gladdens them now on earth. Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

Reading

John 20:11-18 (RSV)

Christ appears to Mary Magdalen

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' ¹⁴ Saying this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, 'Mary.' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rab-bo'ni!' (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' ¹⁸ Mary Mag'dalen went and said to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Reflection

ON EASTER DAY the Gospel told us of Mary Magdalen's bewilderment on when, coming to the tomb on the first day of the week, whilst it was still dark, she saw the stone rolled away. She was frightened and fetched Peter and John, who investigated further and provided us with the two male witnesses (as required for testimony by Jewish Law). Subsequently, as we hear in today's Gospel, Mary encounters Christ and it is the first of the Resurrection appearances. There is some strangeness: she mistakes the figure looking out of the mist of the garden and thinks he is the gardener; only when he speaks and calls her by name does she recognise him. There is then the famous *noli tangere* exchange: Jesus warns Mary not to cling to him – not to touch him – because he has 'not yet ascended to the Father'. One explanation of this is that, though Christ rose 'on the third day', that is, Sunday, early on Sunday morning is at best only a couple of days since Good Friday afternoon. In short, this 'Resurrection appearance' might be as yet incomplete. It is the Sunday evening, when the disciples are gathered together at supper in the Upper Room, when the Risen Christ appears to them.

Wednesday in Easter Week

7th April

Collect

O God, who gladden us year by year with the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection, graciously grant that, by celebrating these present festivities, we may merit through them to reach eternal joys. Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

Reading

Luke 24:13-35 (RSV)

The Road to Emmaus

¹³ That very day two of them were going to a village named Emma'us, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, 'What is this conversation which you are holding with each other as you walk?' And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, named Cle'opas, answered him, 'Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?' ¹⁹ And he said to them, 'What things?' And they said to him, 'Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since this happened. ²² Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning ²³ and did not find his body; and they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb, and found it just as the women had said; but him they did not see.' ²⁵ And he said to them, 'O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?' ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

²⁸ So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He appeared to be going further, ²⁹ but they constrained him, saying, 'Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.' So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; and he vanished out of their sight. ³² They said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?' ³³ And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven gathered together and those who were with them, ³⁴ who said, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!' ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Reflection

THE ENCOUNTER on the road to Emmaus on the evening of the first Easter Day is one of the loveliest of the Gospel stories. It is perfectly told: the walk of two bereaved and bewildered disciples; an encounter with a mysterious stranger to whom they pour out their grief; his counsel and encouragement, as he explains the Scriptures to them; the *mane nobiscum* (remain with us) incident; the meal and the discovery of the Risen Christ 'in the breaking of the bread'. It is not only a journey of exploration and discovery – another instance of the darkness of unbelief to the light of faith – but an acting out of the Eucharist. In the Eucharist, where two or three are gathered together (Matt 18:20) 'on the Way', we discover Jesus accompanying us. He expounds the Scriptures – the Liturgy of the Word – and we find our hearts burning within us. We prepare the Supper, inviting him to remain with us. We then discover him in the breaking of the bread. The eucharistic liturgy does not end there: we find ourselves impelled to go out and tell others the Good News. In this way the Resurrection Faith is spread and communicated to the world.

Thursday in Easter Week

8th April

Collect

O God, who have united the many nations in confessing your name, grant that those reborn in the font of Baptism may be one in the faith of their hearts and the homage of their deeds. Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

Reading

Luke 24:35-48 (RSV)

The Risen Christ again appears

The disciples told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

³⁶ As they were saying this, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, 'Peace to you.' ³⁷ But they were startled and frightened, and supposed that they saw a spirit. ³⁸ And he said to them, 'Why are you troubled, and why do questionings rise in your hearts? ³⁹ See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have.' ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ And while they still disbelieved for joy, and wondered, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate before them.

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, 'These are my words which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled.' ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.'

Reflection

FOLLOWING the Emmaus Road encounter, yesterday's Gospel, St Luke tells us of another appearance. This time the Risen Christ appears to the assembled disciples in Jerusalem. It is the final appearance in the Gospel itself but St Luke tells us in Acts that Jesus appeared to his followers for forty days, and as a vision to Stephen (Acts 7:55-56) and Paul (Acts 9:1-9, 27). This is no ghost: before the Ascension the Risen Christ speaks to them and eats broiled fish (Luke 24:42-43). He shows them his hands and his feet. These are details similar to those recorded by St John (20-21). St Luke is telling us – in sequence – that the passion prophecies of Jesus were fulfilled (the Empty Tomb), that Moses and the prophets had foretold the suffering and resurrection of the Messiah (Emmaus Road) and now, in his address to them in the Upper Room, that it is the Risen Lord who teaches them (and us) about the resurrection and the forgiveness of sins and empowers them (and us) to be witnesses of these things, which are to be proclaimed to the nations (the mission which ensues in the Acts of the Apostles, St Luke's second volume).

Friday in Easter Week

9th April

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, who gave us the Paschal Mystery in the covenant you established for reconciling the human race: so dispose our minds, we pray, that what we celebrate by professing the faith, we may express in deeds. Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

Reading

John 21:1-14 (RSV)

The Risen Christ appears to Seven Disciples

After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tibe'rias; and he revealed himself in this way. ² Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathan'a-el of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zeb'edee, and two others of his disciples were together. ³ Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat; but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, 'Children, have you any fish?' They answered him, 'No.' ⁶ He said to them, 'Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, for the quantity of fish. ⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his clothes, for he was stripped for work, and sprang into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.

⁹ When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish lying on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and although there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared ask him, 'Who are you?' They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Reflection

BACK with the Resurrection accounts in St John's Gospel, we find in Chapter 21 what many scholars regard as an 'Afterword' or Epilogue. The Gospel seemed to have ended at Chapter 20:29: Jesus' appearance to the disciples in the Upper Room for the second Sunday evening running. All the manuscripts, however, contain Chapter 21 with its two further episodes. The first (verses 1-14) is a third appearance of the Risen Christ, this time by the Sea of Tiberias. The second is the rehabilitation of Peter. Today the fishermen-apostles have gone back to fishing, their livelihood. They catch nothing: their life's work before they met Jesus is now turning out to be entirely unproductive. When they come once more under the sway of the Lord, they catch so much fish that it breaks their nets. In fact there are 153 fish altogether. Lots of theories about this ranging from the actual number: somebody counted them to this being the number of fish species known in the ancient world. Whatever the interpretation, clearly the apostles are called once more to be 'fishers of men' rather than 'fishermen'. We might make something of the breakfast – bread and fish both being highly symbolic and even eucharistic – but most important that here we have no ghost but One, who in his Resurrection body, can eat and drink.

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST MARK,

Chapter by Chapter

We had reached Chapter 9 and we shall resume in a couple of weeks with Chapter 10. Meanwhile, to mark Holy Week, we have read Chapters 14 and 15 and now in Easter Week we shall read Chapter 16.

Mark 16 *Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition*

The Resurrection of Jesus

16 And when the sabbath was past, Mary Mag'dalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salo'me, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ² And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. ³ And they were saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?' ⁴ And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back; for it was very large. ⁵ And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. ⁶ And he said to them, 'Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you.' ⁸ And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to any one, for they were afraid.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalen

[⁹ Now when he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Mag'dalen, from whom he had cast out seven demons. ¹⁰ She went out and told those who had been with him, as they mourned and wept. ¹¹ But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it.

Jesus Appears to Two Disciples

¹² After this he appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. ¹³ And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them.

Jesus Commissions the Disciples

¹⁴ Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they sat at table; and he upbraided them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. ¹⁵ And he said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation. ¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸ they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.'

The Ascension of Jesus

¹⁹ So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. ²⁰ And they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that attended it.]

* * * * *

FINE

Mark The two oldest manuscripts of Mark 16 (from the fourth century) conclude with verse 8, which ends with the women fleeing from the empty tomb, and saying nothing to anyone, because they were too afraid. Many think it unlikely that the original version of the Gospel ended there. Scholars have identified two distinct alternative endings: the 'Longer Ending' (vv. 9-20) and the unversed 'Shorter Ending' or 'lost ending', which appear together in six Greek manuscripts, and in dozens of Ethiopice copies. Modern versions of the New Testament generally include the Longer Ending, but place it in brackets or otherwise format it to show that it is not considered part of the original text. The 'Shorter Ending' reads 'But they reported briefly to Peter and those with him all that they had been told. And after this, Jesus himself sent out by means of them, from east to west, the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation'.