

Sunday Message

EASTER SUNDAY

THE WORD

Year C • 20th April 2025 • Psalter Week 1

THE EMPTY TOMB

JOHN 20: 1-9



The Gospel reading tells the story of the first Easter. A mixture of excitement and confusion as Mary Magdalene discovers the empty tomb and then runs to break the news to Simon Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved.

Those closest to Jesus receive the news first and then slowly, news of this great event spreads throughout the towns and countryside. We read St. Paul's letter in the second reading encouraging us to look higher, all the way to the top, to Christ. Christians are to think of what's above, not what's on earth. We're to live where Christ is – as a parish, as a community. We're a risen community, we're an Easter people and through our baptism, we share in Christ's new life and risen life of the first Easter. ■

SAY

'Be sure that you first preach by the way you live. If you do not, people will notice that you say one thing, but live otherwise, and your words will bring only cynical laughter and a derisive shake of the head.'
(Saint Charles Borromeo)

DO

Read the Gospel again and sense the joy and confusion Jesus' followers must have felt on this Resurrection Day.

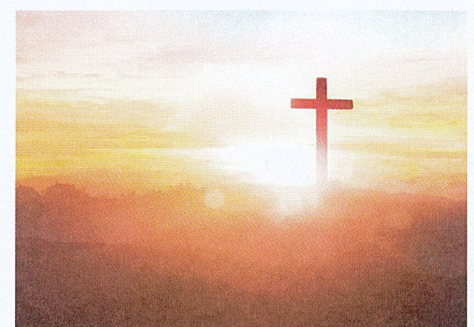
LEARN

'The Church is the visible plan of God's love for humanity because God desires that the whole human race may become one People of God, form one Body of Christ, and be built up into one Temple of the Holy Spirit.'
(Paul VI, June 22, 1973)

REFLECT

I think we all have experience of happy people in our lives. They're the ones who are involved in the world, indeed you might even describe yourself as a happy person! Such a person enjoys festivals of life – like birthdays, first communions, confirmations, graduations, and marriages. An involved person sees problems like poverty, racism and hunger and tries to solve them. But occasionally such a person is tempted to lose hope – perhaps feeling abandoned by others in the struggle for justice and misunderstood by even the closest friends and relatives. Suffering and violence continue to grip our world and witnessing the disfigurement of people due to war and violence breaks our hearts. The challenge of Easter today is to understand human suffering in the light of Jesus' resurrection. We must take God's part in protecting against the violence and the suffering that are accepted so readily as inevitable.

Christians see help against despair in the celebration of Easter. The resurrection of our Lord is the central mystery of our faith, our chief festival of life. It gives hope to those who've lost it. Theologian and scholar Harold A. Buetow describes it as the day on which Jesus snatched victory from the jaws of defeat, vindicated his life and teachings and confirmed our faith. It's the most exciting event in world history. It isn't only an event that happened once in the past: it's the power of God that's seen constantly in people's lives. The resurrection is a sign of God's loving interest in our world. ■





HASLEMERE
HINDHEAD
CHIDDINGFOLD

Parish Bulletin

Easter 2025

The Lord is risen! Alleluia! is a cry that rings out throughout the church and the whole world. Why? It happened a long time ago, in a place far away, among a group of people who are not us.

The cause of our joy (and our hope) is that these events are for us and for our salvation. Through the waters of baptism and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit we become sharers in the Easter Mysteries and the new life of Jesus. We have been blessed this year with a glorious springtime and we could do worse than consider how all the signs of new life we have seen are an outward expression of the new life that God is working within us.

This new life is of vital importance in a fracturing and uncertain world. Through our sharing in the Easter Mysteries we become "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a purchased people . . . who in times past were not a people, but are now the people of God". Sixty years ago the Second Vatican Council had this to say about who we are:

The state of this people is that of the dignity and freedom of the sons of God, in whose hearts the Holy Spirit dwells as in His temple. Its law is the new commandment to love as Christ loved us. Its end is the kingdom of God, which has been begun by God Himself on earth, and which is to be further extended until it is brought to perfection by Him at the end of time, when Christ, our life, shall appear, and "creation itself will be delivered from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the sons of God". So it is that that messianic people, although it does not actually include all men [and women], and at times may look like a small flock, is nonetheless a lasting and sure seed of unity, hope and salvation for the whole human race. Established by Christ as a communion of life, charity and truth, it is also used by Him as an instrument for the redemption of all, and is sent forth into the whole world as the light of the world and the salt of the earth.

It is in Easter that we find our identity and our mission. When Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to Mary Magdalene and then to the Apostles he filled their broken and fearful hearts with hope and new vigour. They go out near and far and bear witness to what Jesus did and what God is doing in the present age. Our task, grounded in the encounter with the risen Jesus is prayer, and formed in the response to our call, is to also bear witness in word and deed to a new and different life in Jesus and to the hope that is his triumph over all forms of sin and death.

We welcome Fr Hugh Seenan (MAfr), from the Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers) who will be celebrating the Triduum with us this Easter.

Wishing everyone abundant blessings as we celebrate the resurrection of the Lord, and throughout this joyful season of Easter.

Thank you to all who helped prepare our churches and liturgies for the Easter Mysteries.

Easter Offering The collection at Easter is for the support of our priests. (Our priests do not receive a salary: their income comes from the offering at Christmas and Easter, offerings for baptisms, weddings and funerals and offerings for Masses. These are gratefully received.) Please use the Gift Aid envelopes if you can or use the Digital Plate /QR Code.

Next Sunday Blessed Carlo Acutis will be canonised (declared a saint) in Rome. The Vatican has a good YouTube channel if you wish to watch it. Pray for our young people, that his love of the Eucharist will inspire them to find the Lord in the Sacraments and in the life of the church.

Clergy Moves Fr Tony Furlong has been appointed parish priest of St. Etheldreda's, Ely Place from May 1st by his Provincial. After that date, Sunday Mass at Holy Cross Convent will be celebrated by Fr Denis Labar-tette, newly arrived at the Rosminian House in Wonersh. Fr. Tony hopes to say a weekday Mass but do pay close attention to the newsletter for the timings.

Bishop Richard has confirmed that a new priest, who will reside in Haslemere, is expected towards the end of July, once immigration requirements have been completed. We will review arrangements for other weekday masses in the area once he is in place.

First Holy Communion 2025. Three of our children will be making their First Holy Communion during 11am Mass on **Sunday 27th April**, Thomas King, Carlton and Bryan Doll. Then five children on Sunday **4th May**, Giulia Deehan, Freya & Teddy Hawley, George D'Silva and Jamie Kriel. We anticipate the Mass attendance will be more than the usual with the family and friends of the FHC children. Please keep in your prayers our eight children as they prepare for the special event in their lives. It is also going to be a moment of special celebration and moment of grace for our parish community.

Godalming Summer Alpha Course We are delighted to be running the Alpha course this summer; it's an opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly and informal environment and is the ideal tonic to renew your faith and to inspire you! Every-one is invited! The sessions take place on Sunday evenings from 7-9pm at Alan and Nicki Lion's home (in Godalming), and include supper, a short film and discussion, starting on **27th April**. There is no charge, for more information please get in touch with Nicki & Alan: T: 01483 420859 / 07757 281829 or E: alio@btinternet.com

The Secular Clergy Common Fund is looking to appoint a **new CEO**. It makes grants to our sick and retired priests and looks after two Catholic cemeteries in London. The role is 0.6FTE and offers flexible working and a salary of £50K-£60K pro rata. For further details speak to Fr Jonathan.

CAFOD Myanmar Earthquake Appeal CAFOD is one of the agencies supporting families affected by the disaster. You can give to their appeal online at cafod.org.uk/myanmar or by calling 0303 303 3030. Or you can text EARTHQUAKE to 70450

Save the Date! On the evening of 20th May, John Paul de Quay will give an interactive talk, "Haslemere's Journey to 2030", as part of the Haslemere Festival 25. He will lead an exploration of the connection between society and environment and the importance of an imaginative guiding vision in the face of our ecological crisis. We will consider the role of faith and explore what vision Haslemere has for the future of our town. We are inviting people from other churches, faiths and community groups. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will bless and guide this endeavour.

Communion under both kinds. We are planning to resume this practice of Communion under both kinds after Easter. To make this possible, we will need additional Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. If you are interested in serving in this ministry or can recommend someone, please contact the Parish Office or Fr. Jonathan.

Sharing and Teaching the Faith: Catechists' Day - 26 April, St Joseph's Hall, Guildford. Our Catechists share and teach our Catholic faith to others in the parish – from children's liturgy to sacramental preparation and adult formation. Whether you're already serving in this ministry or interested in learning more, join expert Dr Caroline Farley for a day of inspiration and formation, which includes a blessing ceremony, sessions on becoming a better catechist, practical principles for teaching about the Holy Spirit, and how faith transforms lives. Come for all or part of the day (9.30am-2:30pm). For more details and to register: <https://cpg.churchsuite.com/events/obwgvycvca>

Marriage Help- Retrouvaille helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage. Next date: **20-22 June** www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 0788 7296983

Assisted Suicide Bishop Richard's pastoral letter about the bill expresses his concern about the quality of scrutiny for something so serious. More info at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/cardinal-assisted-suicide-pastoral-letter/>. The Third Reading of the Bill has been put back to early May, which gives us more opportunities to find time to write directly to our MP in your own words, but if not then at least consider putting your mark against the Right to Life campaign <https://righttolife.org.uk/asvote>

Livesimply at St Edmund's in Godalming are inviting us to join with them in supporting CAFOD's Big Lent Walk 2025. Donate online at StEdmundsJustGiving.page.

Youth Discipleship Group Every other Friday from 7pm-9pm for young people in Year 11 to 13. The next session is on **25 April**. For info or sign up: DavidBeresford@franciscancentre.org.uk

Parish Steering Team – Join us in Leadership

Do you have a gift for vision and leadership and a calling/passion to help support and grow your parish? We are looking for volunteers to join the Steering Team for the new larger parish and work alongside the priests to develop our parish mission in the light of to the Diocesan Pastoral Plan.

Through this role, you can help us to shape the long-term parish vision, foster faith renewal initiatives, support project implementation and build a collaborative leadership culture.

We are looking for parishioners with a commitment to prayer and mission; a collaborative mindset; a decision-making capability and a willingness to travel between parish hubs. Four-year term positions available for Chair, finance lead, and hub representatives.

For further details speak to Fr Jonathan or see the Terms of Reference in the blog post on the Godalming parish web-site

Volunteers are needed at HMP Send

There are a wide range of opportunities, such as facilitators for faith-related courses, attending and joining in services, admin support, offering a listening ear to women in distress, befriending and visiting a particular prisoner. If you think you might be called to this ministry or have any questions, email Aseel Gilbert aseel.gilbert@justice.gov.uk

Parish Census If you are new to our Parish have not completed the Parish Census form these can be found at the back of all our churches.

Please note that the information asked for on the Census Form will be very limited and for Parish use only.

Some Holy Year Events

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (24 July to 1 August), is led by Bishop Richard, and if you're thinking of going there's more info and forms at: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/lourdes/home>.

Holy Year Pilgrimage to Rome Fr Jonathan will lead a pilgrimage to Rome from 17th to 21st November, organised by JC Journeys. To book see <https://www.jcjourneys.com/irj> or ask the parish office for a paper form. Cost £975

The Life in the Spirit course Experience a new fullness of life through personal encounter with Jesus Christ in this classic course on the Holy Spirit. Thursday evenings from 8th May, at St Pius, Mellow plus Pentecost Saturday, 7th June.

Pope Francis' prayer intention for April is for technologies. Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

Weekly Bulletin If you wish to receive the Parish Weekly Bulletin online on a Friday please sign up on the Parish Website. On the homepage click on 'Contact' and scroll down to 'Subscribe' and fill in your email address to join.

Donation by QR Code You can give to our parish (including any current appeals) by using the Digital Plate, our Parish Website also by using the QR Code which is displayed at all our churches.



Mass Schedule & Intentions

Saturday 26 Apr THE SOLEMN VIGIL OF EASTER	9.00am Świąconka (St Joseph's, in Polish) 4.30pm Holy Cross 8.30pm Our Lady of Lourdes
Sunday 20 April EASTER SUNDAY	9.00am Mass (St Teresa) 9.30am Mass (Holy Cross) 11am Mass (Our Lady of Lourdes)
Monday 21 Apr	11.30am Mass (Holy Cross)
Tuesday 22 Apr	11.30am Mass (Holy Cross)
Wednesday 23 Apr	9.30am Mass (Holy Cross)
Thursday 24 Apr	10.00am Mass (St Joseph's Guildford)
Friday 25 Apr	12.30pm Funeral Mass—Veronica Slocock
Saturday 26 Apr	4.30pm Vigil Mass (Holy Cross) 6pm Mass (St Anselm) Alan Tompkins RIP
Sunday 27 April SECOND 'Low' SUNDAY OF EASTER (Divine Mercy Sunday)	9.00am Mass (St Teresa) 11am Mass (Our Lady of Lourdes)

Live Simply Tips
Offer thanks for all that is good and say a quick prayer for those in need.

Please Pray For

The sick: Michael Gaul, Robin Dibden, David Cradduck, Charlotte Lindsay, Malinda Gabuya, Derek Blades, Martin Parker, Henrietta Lenahan (Holt), Arul Salathian, Diana Molyneux, Louise Milford, Hazel O'Flynn, Abigail Stafford Johnson, Livvy Miller, Louise Reeve, Patricia Reidy, Jo Allen, Jane Adolph, Carmel & Roland Murray, Teresa Marshall, Alberto Costantini, Sebastian Codlin, and Betty Harding.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Dave Caush who died on Monday. Please remember his family and friends. Also pray for James McGrory who died last week.

The Deceased: Sean Philip Casey, Sr Ann Finnigan, Michael West, Doreen Quek and Lucy Wilde.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*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.*

Or

*The Lord is truly risen, alleluia.
To him be glory and power
for all the ages of eternity, alleluia, alleluia.*

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.

Amen.

FIRST READING Acts 10:34a. 37-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In those days: Peter opened his mouth and said: 'You yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. And we are witnesses of 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 caused him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been 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 appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 118(117):1-2. 16-17. 22-23. R. 24

*R: This is the day the LORD has made;
let us rejoice in it and be glad.*

Or *Alleluia.*

1. 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.**
2. The LORD's right hand is exalted.
The LORD's right hand has done mighty deeds.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount the deeds of the LORD. **R.**
3. The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
By the LORD has this been done,
a marvel in our eyes. **R.**

SECOND READING Colossians 3:1-4

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians.

Brothers and sisters: If 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 hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters: Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE

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!

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL 1 Corinthians 5:7b-8a

R: Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed;
let us therefore celebrate the festival in the Lord.

R: Alleluia.

GOSPEL John 20:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

On the first day of the week Mary Magdalene 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.' So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going towards the tomb. Both of them were running together, 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 there, and the face cloth, which had been on the head of Jesus, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*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 unfailing love and favour,
so that, renewed by the paschal mysteries,
she may come to the glory of the Resurrection.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.