

HAPPY EASTER! Today we celebrate the resurrection of Christ our Lord. It is a day of new dawn, a day for a new beginning. Let our joy be unbounded as we renew our faith and love. We celebrate the Lord's victory over sin and death. Let us make that victory our own.

OPENING PRAYER:

Let us pray that the risen Christ will raise us up and renew our lives. God our Father, by raising Christ your Son, you conquered the power of death and opened for us the way to eternal life. Let our celebration today raise us up and renew our lives by the Spirit that is within us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading – Acts 10 v. 34. 37-43. *Peter outlines the essentials of the Christian faith; Christ has risen from the dead and in him all men find new life.*

'Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 117

® This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
For his love has no end.
Let the sons of Israel say:
"His love has no end." ®

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
His right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live
And recount his deeds. ®

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes. ®

Second Reading – Colossians 3 v. 1-4. Through our Baptism we already share in the risen life of Christ, though in a hidden and mysterious way.

'Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.'

Sequence (All)

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise.

The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb; and Christ, the undefiled, has 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, alleluia! Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed;
let us celebrate the feast then, in the Lord. Alleluia!**

Gospel – John 20 v. 1-9 Mary of Magdala discovers the tomb empty on Easter morning and Peter and the beloved disciple run to see for themselves. In contrast to Peter, the beloved disciple believes.

'Gospel –

'It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.'

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: We look forward to our own resurrection and we pray to our Father for all the things we need as we wait for the second coming of his Son.

Reader: Let us pray for all joining us for our celebration today online. May they experience the power and presence of the risen Lord in this community.

Let us pray for those who are sick in mind or body. May they feel the healing strength of Christ uniting them in his body, for the glory of God and good of his people. We pray for all suffering in the current pandemic and also for Peter Wyatt, Billy Carter, Michael Denny, Janice Ross, Jessica Mercer, Rebecca Pipe and Nichola Berry

We pray for all those who are involved in caring for those suffering in the world; doctors, nurses, healthcare and relief workers and for all who support them with their generosity; may they be encouraged by the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray for all those whose lives are overshadowed by the darkness of grief, loneliness, pain and despair, that Christ may bring them light – especially relatives and friends of sick people and the bereaved.

Let us pray for all government leaders: that they may be guided when making critical decisions. Also for all key workers that they may be encouraged in their work, protected from harm and enjoy some of the peace and joy Christ shared with his disciples on Easter Day.

Let us pray for those who have no faith in an after life: that the joy and hope of this great day may dawn for them too. We pray for ourselves that we may be able to overcome our fear of death, since Christ underwent it and overcame it for us.

Let us pray for all those who have died. May they experience the life of Easter and the peace of dwelling forever in the presence of the Lord, especially Una Robinson, Andrew Drayson, Herbert Footer, Arthur Braybrook, Chritianne Mawson, Winifred Webb, Peggy Walker, Fr Morgan Brindley Morgan, Edwin Tillsley, Frederick Jupp, Joy Pink and Michael Martin, whose anniversaries of death are this week.

Let us pray with Mary, who was filled with joy at her Son being raised from the dead. – **Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.**

SILENCE

ALL: O God, give us such faith in the resurrection of your Son that something of his glory may be seen in us through our lives. Amen.

ACT OF SPIRITUAL HOLY COMMUNION

Dear Lord, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. Let nothing ever separate me from you.

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

EASTER ANGELUS. *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!*

Fr Philip writes:

I regret the church has to be locked, but I continue to offer Mass, Morning and Evening Prayer, the Divine Office and Shrine Prayers daily in the Vicarage. Please join with me in spirit, and try to make the Act of Spiritual Holy Communion each day. You can phone or email with any Prayer requests or send a message via the website (contact page).

A Thought for Easter Week by Mark Link

‘The good news of Easter is that Jesus has triumphed over sin and evil – and so will we if we open our lives to his Easter power. The good news of Easter is that Jesus will work a miracle in our lives on this very day if we will but open our hearts to his Easter power.’

Mass Readings this week

EASTER MONDAY: Acts 2 v.14.22-33. Matt. 28 v. 8-15. Intention: All who doubt

EASTER TUESDAY: Acts 2 v.26-41. John 20 v.11-18. Int: the sick

EASTER WEDNESDAY: Acts 3 v.1-10. Luke 24 v. 13-35. Int: healing guilds

EASTER THURSDAY: Acts 3 v. 11-26. Luke 24 v. 35-48. Int: Confirmation candidates

EASTER FRIDAY: Acts 4 v. 1-12 . John 21 v. 1-14.. Int: **the mission of the Church**

EASTER SATURDAY: Acts 4 v 13-21; Mark 16 v 9-15. Int: Additional Curates Society

Next Sunday:SECOND OF EASTERTIDE. Acts 5 v. 12-16; Rev. 1 v. 9-13; 17-19. John 20 v. 19-31)

We are glad that many of you have been helped by the YouTube videos of recent liturgies; thank you for your patience and understanding about the glitches. We hope to upload the video of Easter Sunday Mass by midday on Sunday

Please continue to pray for one another, as we pray for you. It is good to hear from so many of you and know you are keeping in touch with each other using the phone tree or email.

More resources can be found on the following page of the church website:
<https://www.stmarysmendlesham.org.uk/worship-during-current-crisis.html>