



WELCOME TO ST PETER'S ASH

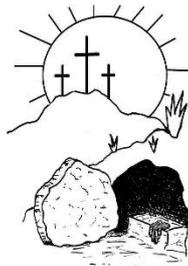


THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AT ST PETER'S IS CALLED TO CELEBRATE, LIVE AND REFLECT THE LOVE OF GOD IN JESUS CHRIST

12th APRIL 2020

EASTER DAY

<p><u>READINGS FOR TODAY</u> Acts 10 v 34 – 43; Colossians 3 v 1 – 4; John 20 v 1 - 18</p>	<p>PARISH OFFICE: Closed until further notice. TEL:01252 331161; e- mail: office@saint-peters-ash.org.uk BOOKINGS OF WEDDINGS & BAPTISMS – 01252 321517 WEBSITE: www.saint-peters-ash.org.uk</p>
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**ALLELUIA, CHRIST IS RISEN!
HE IS RISEN INDEED, ALLELUIA!**

A very Happy Easter to you all – we will be celebrating in style just as soon as we can start using the church again!

INTRODUCTION TO EASTER

The Great Fifty Days of Eastertide form a single festival period in which a tone of joy is sustained through the following seven weeks, and the Church celebrates the gloriously risen Christ:

Triumphant in his glory now,
his sceptre ruleth all,
earth, heaven and hell before him bow,
and at his footstool fall. *(Fulbert of Chartres)*

COLLECT FOR EASTER DAY

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR ALL AFFECTED BY THE CORONA VIRUS

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

DON'T FORGET OUR ST PETER'S PRAYER CHAIN If
you would like emergency prayer for yourself or
somebody else please phone: 01252 322292 or 01252
323037 – this is a confidential service.

If you would like a chat at any time, or if you need anything,
please give myself or Carol a call – 321517 or (Carol) 313239.
Be assured that we will be praying for you all, and that you
are very much in our thoughts, every day. Our church
building may be 'out of use' for the present, but St
Peter's Church i.e. we, the people, are very much still in
business! Please keep in contact with each other regularly.

Early Christians gave the name Pentecost to this whole
fifty-day span of rejoicing, which Tertullian calls 'this most
joyful period'. The Easter Candle, usually lit at the great
Easter Vigil service, stands prominently in church for all
the Eastertide services. (That will happen, this year, just
as soon as we can get back into church!) The 'Alleluia'
appears frequently in liturgical speech and song; the
traditional collection of Pauline texts known as the 'Easter
Anthems' are used in daily prayer, and white or gold
vestments and decorations emphasize the joy and
brightness of the season.

In Eastertide, also, the Old Testament readings are
replaced by readings from Acts, following the story of the
early church as it was established and grew, after the
Resurrection. At this time, when we are isolated, it might
be an idea to read through the whole of Acts. We'll get a
better perspective on how God guided and supported
those first Christians, long before they had beautiful,
purpose-built buildings in which to worship. The Church,
in those days, meant the assembled people – usually in
ordinary houses. Now, we all too easily forget that 'The
Church' is still the people, *not the building*. So, this Easter
we can 'get back to basics' and think about what is really
important to us in our faith. 'Jesus said that He is with us
always to the end of the age' and that means just as much
in our own living rooms as in an ancient building. We
celebrate with great joy wherever we are!

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF THE RECENTLY DEPARTED,
ESPECIALLY:**

HELGA BURGESS; PAT GEIS; IVY MILLS; JUNE LARBY

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK – EASTER 2

Acts 2v 14a, 22 - 32; 1 Peter 1 v 3 - 9; John 20 v 19 to end

promise that Jesus makes to his friends, that He has gone ahead to prepare a place for us in God's Kingdom – where everyone who believes has eternal life.'

We can now affirm our Baptismal Promises:

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him, and so I affirm that:

I reject the devil and all rebellion against God.

I renounce the deceit and corruption of evil.

I repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour.

I turn to Christ as Saviour. I submit to Christ as Lord and I come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life.

Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all who have been baptized in your name. Keep us faithful to our baptism, and so make us ready for that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah)

All: The Lord is risen from the tomb who for our sakes hung upon the tree. Alleluia.

1) Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, who has come to his people and set them free.

2) He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, born of the house of his servant David.

3) Through his holy prophets God promised of old to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,

4) To show mercy to our ancestors, and to remember his holy covenant.

5) This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

6) Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

7) And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

8) To give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of all their sins.

9) In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

10) To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. *(Luke 1.68-79)*

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

All: The Lord is risen from the tomb who for our sakes hung upon the tree. Alleluia.

Today's Intercessions were written by Ceri Hurcombe:

By raising your Son from the dead, death has been destroyed and new life has been restored. As you call us to newness of life may our lives reflect his glory.

Blessed are you Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Lord bless your church, that it may reveal your presence and the power of the resurrection. May each church community show signs of new life and joy in you, especially through these challenging times. Through our relationship with you may we bring others to be faithful. We ask your blessing upon all who are seekers, all who are waiting to be baptised, all who are new in the faith and all who are struggling with doubt and darkness.

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(L) Jesus Stand among us. All: In your risen power.

Lord, bless the world with your peace, the peace that it cannot achieve on its own. We pray for peace between nations and communities. We pray for the work of the United Nations and for all who work to achieve peace.

We remember today all who struggling with this period of isolation. We pray for those who are unwell, especially those in hospitals. We pray for those who feel overwhelmed with loneliness and for those who are living in cramped conditions with no outside space. We give thanks to all those in front line roles during this pandemic. We raise before you, Lord, all those who work in our hospitals, putting themselves at risk to care for those in need. We also thank those working to supply our food and we ask you to help us all be more appreciative of things we once took for granted.

(L) Jesus Stand among us. All: In your risen power

We give thanks for those who have taught us the faith and introduced us to the living Lord. We pray for church leaders, teachers and all those who take time to share their faith with others. We ask for your presence in our homes at this Easter time. Help us to find new ways of reflecting and worshipping during these challenging times and encourage us all to renew our commitment to you, our Father.

(L) Jesus Stand among us. All: In your risen power

As we sit alongside all those who mourn a loved one and especially during this time those who can't have the funeral they would have wished for their loved ones. We pray for those who carry a heavy weight in their heart or mind and ask that all can be enlightened to your presence and know the hope of eternal life. We pray for the recently departed and take a moment in silence to think of those missing from our own lives.

(L) Jesus Stand among us. All: In your risen power

We rejoice with the disciplines and all your saints in the joy of the risen Lord. We ask you to bless all who are following this service in their own home. Give us the strength to really listen to others, care for those around us and love like Jesus taught us.

All: Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son Jesus Christ, Amen.

Rejoicing in God's new creation, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray: Our Father in heaven.....

This hymn may be said or sung:

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay. *Refrain:*

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
Endless is the vict'ry, thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the Church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing;
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting. *Refrain:*

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love:
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. *Refrain:*

May the risen Christ grant us the joys of eternal life.
Amen.

*(L) Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.
All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.*

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Evening Prayer for the Easter Season

O Lord open our lips,
and our mouth shall show forth your praise.

O God make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

In your resurrection, O Christ,
let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia.

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord
the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
to you be glory and praise for ever.
From the deep waters of death
you brought your people to new birth
by raising your Son to life in triumph.
Through him dark death has been destroyed
and radiant life is everywhere restored.
As you call us out of darkness into his marvellous light
may our lives reflect his glory
and our lips repeat the endless song.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

This hymn may be said or sung:

Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,
your sweetest notes employ,
the Paschal victory to hymn
in strains of holy joy.

How Judah's lion burst his chains
and crushed the serpent's head;
and brought with him, from death's domains,
the long-imprisoned dead.

Triumphant in his glory now
his sceptre ruleth all,
earth, heaven, and hell before him bow,
and at his footstool fall.

While joyful thus his praise we sing,
his mercy we implore,
into his palace bright to bring
and keep us evermore.

All glory to the Father be,
all glory to the Son,
all glory, Holy Ghost, to thee,
while endless ages run. Alleluia, Amen.

We pray:

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,
so may your mercy come down upon us
to cleanse our hearts
and set us free to sing your praise
now and for ever Amen.

One Psalm is said e.g. Psalm 135 or 136 or 105 or 106 or 107 or 145. Ending with:

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever.
Amen.

*A Scripture Reading: some verses from I Corinthians 15
or Matthew 28 or Mark 16 or Luke 24 or John 20 & 21 or
start reading the Book of Acts.*

The Lord is my strength and my song: he has become my
salvation. I shall not die, but live, and declare the works
of the Lord. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the
Holy Spirit. The Lord is my strength and my song: he has
become my salvation. (from Psalm 118)

Gospel Cantic: The Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

The stone which the builders rejected has become the
chief cornerstone. Alleluia.

1) My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit
rejoices in God my Saviour; he has looked with favour on
his lowly servant.

2) From this day all generations will call me blessed; the
Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his
name.

3) He has mercy on those who fear him, from generation
to generation.

4) He has shown strength with his arm and has scattered
the proud in their conceit,

5) Casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting
up the lowly.

6) He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the
rich away empty.

7) He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, to
remember his promise of mercy,

8) The promise made to our ancestors, to Abraham and
his children for ever.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever.
Amen.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the
chief cornerstone. Alleluia.

*Prayers of thanksgiving may be made for the day.
Intercessions are offered for the church, for peace, the
world and for individuals and their needs*

Rejoicing in God's new creation, let us pray with
confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven ...

God of life, who for our redemption gave your only-
begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious
resurrection have delivered us from the power of our
enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may
evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lighten our darkness, Lord, we pray, and in your great
mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night,
for the love of your only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all
evermore. Amen.

May the risen Christ grant us the joys of eternal life.
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy
of God, rest in peace. Amen.



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