

PARISH OF ST. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN MORECAMBE
31st March 2024 – Easter Sunday
7th April – 2nd Sunday of Easter – Divine Mercy Sunday

Parish Clergy

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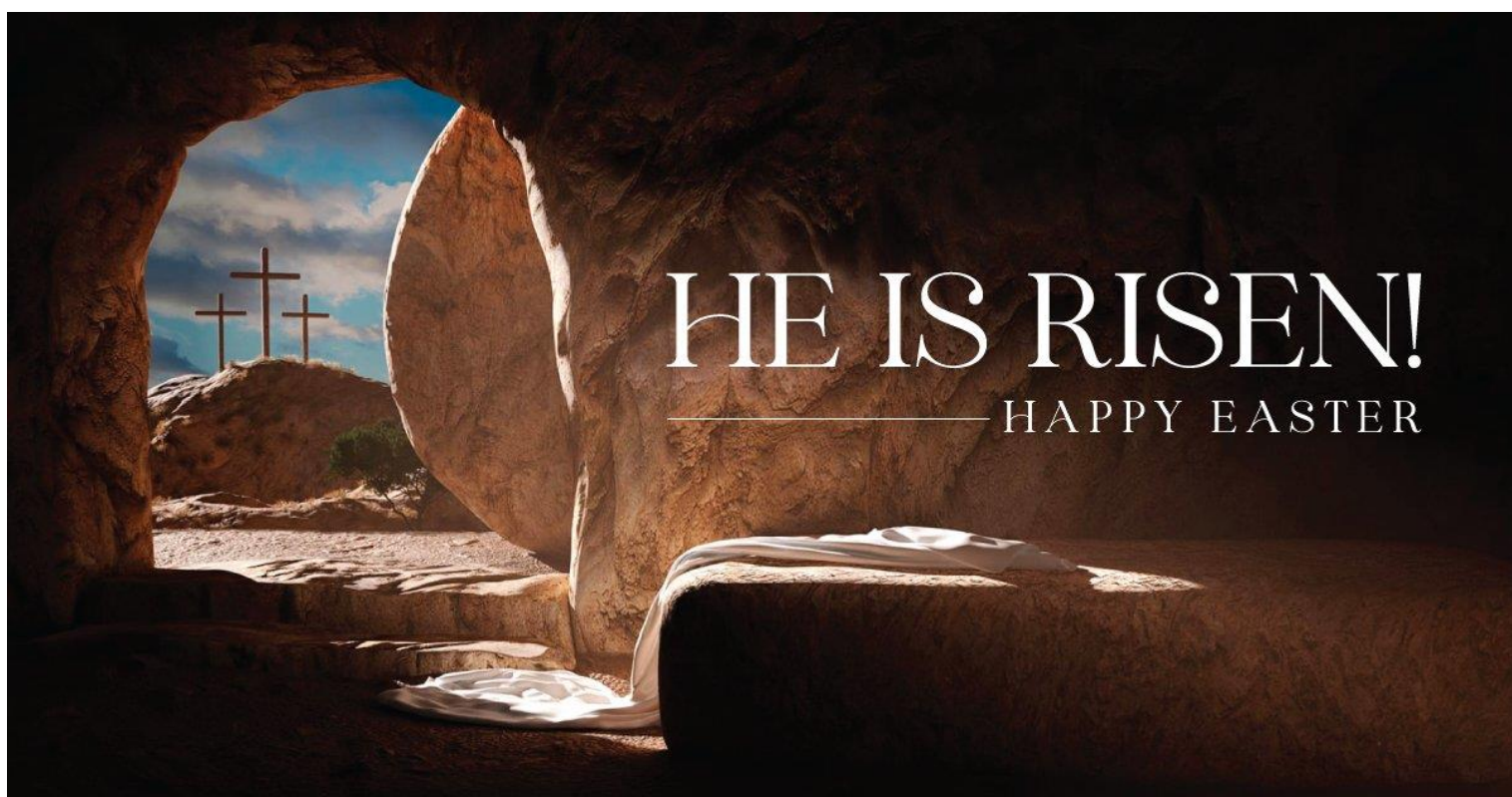
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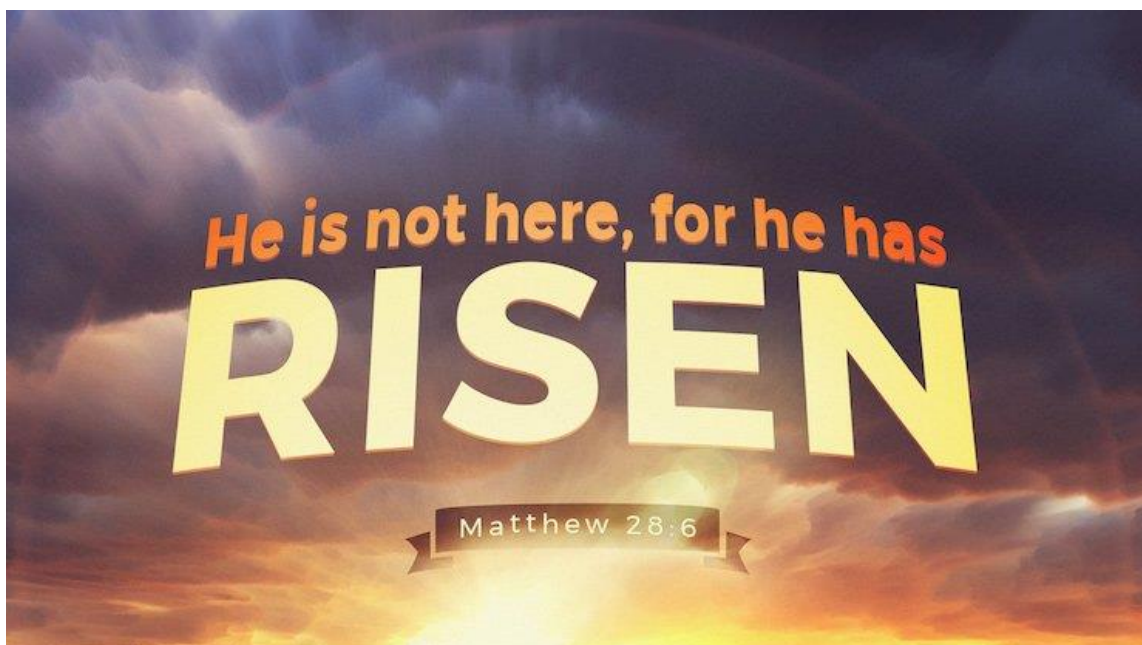
GOSPEL REFLECTION - EASTER SUNDAY

Today we begin the Easter Season, our 50-day meditation on the mystery of Christ's Resurrection. Our Gospel today tells us about the disciples' discovery of the empty tomb. It concludes by telling us that they did not yet understand that Jesus had risen from the dead. Thus, the details provided are not necessarily meant to offer proof of the Resurrection. The details invite us to reflect upon a most amazing gift, that is faith in Jesus and his Resurrection.

Each of the four Gospels tells us that Jesus' empty tomb was first discovered by women. This is notable because in first-century Jewish society women could not serve as legal witnesses. In the case of John's Gospel, the only woman attending the tomb is Mary of Magdala. Unlike the Synoptic accounts, John's Gospel does not describe an appearance of angels at the tomb. Instead, Mary is simply said to have observed that the stone that had sealed the tomb had been moved, and she runs to alert Simon Peter and the beloved disciple. Her statement to them is telling. She assumes that Jesus' body has been removed, perhaps stolen. She does not consider that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

Simon Peter and the beloved disciple race to the tomb, presumably to verify Mary's report. The beloved disciple arrives first but does not enter the tomb until after Simon Peter. This detail paints a vivid picture, as does the detail provided about the burial cloths. Some scholars believe that the presence of the burial cloths in the tomb offers evidence to the listener that Jesus' body had not been stolen (it is understood that grave robbers would have taken the burial cloths together with the body).

The Gospel passage concludes, however, that even having seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths, the disciples do not yet understand about the Resurrection. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala meets Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. In the weeks ahead, the Gospel readings from our liturgy will show us how the disciples came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection through his appearances to them. Our Easter faith is based on their witness to both the empty tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus—in his appearances and in his gift of the Holy Spirit.



GOSPEL REFLECTION – 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER – DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Today's reading from the Gospel of John is proclaimed on the Second Sunday of Easter in each of the lectionary cycles. This fact alone should alert us to the significance of the encounters with the resurrected Jesus that are described in this reading. This Gospel combines two scenes: Jesus' appearance to his disciples after his Resurrection and Jesus' dialogue with Thomas, the disciple who doubted.

Part of the mystery of Jesus' Resurrection is that he appeared to his disciples not as a spirit, but in bodily form. We do not know, however, exactly what this form looked like. Earlier in John's Gospel, when Mary of Magdala first encountered the risen Jesus, she did not recognise him until he spoke to her. In Luke's Gospel, the disciples walking along the road to Emmaus did not recognise Jesus until he broke bread with them. We know from readings such as today's that in his resurrected form, Jesus was not bound by matter; he appeared to the disciples inside a home even though the door was locked. Yet the disciples could still touch the marks of his Crucifixion.

In today's Gospel, Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace. Jesus then commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun; as Jesus was sent by God, so Jesus sends his disciples. He gives his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit so that they will be able to accomplish this task. Jesus' words to his disciples also highlight the integral connection between the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. With the grace of the Holy Spirit, we can share forgiveness and reconciliation with others.

Thomas, the doubting disciple in today's reading, represents the reality of the Church that comes after this first community of witnesses to Jesus. All but the first disciples of Jesus must believe without seeing. Like Thomas, we may doubt the news that Jesus, who was crucified and buried, appeared to his disciples. Our human nature seeks hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to his disciples after his death is indeed the same Jesus who was crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to be our representative in obtaining this evidence. He gives witness to us that the Jesus who was raised is the same Jesus who died. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are among those who are blessed, for we have not seen and yet believe.



MASS INTENTIONS – EASTER SUNDAY TO DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

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|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Saturday 30/03 Easter Vigil | St Mary's | 8.15pm | People of the Parish |
| Sunday 31/03 Easter Sunday | St Patrick's St Mary's | 9.00am 10.30am | Ellen Carney RIP Gary Nathaniel Preston |
| Monday 1/04 | St. Patrick's | 10:00am | Carden & Almond Families |
| Tuesday 2/04 | St. Patrick's | 10.00am | Howarth Family |
| Wednesday 3/04 | St. Mary's St Mary's | 10.00a m 7.00pm | NO MASS Millie Dawson RIP |
| Thursday 4/04 | St Mary's | 12.10pm | Deceased members of the Vaughan Family |
| Friday 5/04 | St Patrick's | 10.00am | Terri and Ali |
| Saturday 6/04 | St Mary's St Patrick's | 10.00am 6.00pm | Eric Ainsworth RIP Susan Jones RIP |
| Sunday 7/04 | St Mary's St Mary's | 8.30am 10.30am | Sarah and Ashley Bell RIP Anne Quain RIP |

MASS INTENTIONS – DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY TO 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

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|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Saturday 6/04 | St Mary's St Patrick's | 10.00am 6.00pm | Eric Ainsworth RIP Susan Jones RIP |
| Sunday 7/04 | St Mary's St Mary's | 8.30am 10.30am | Sarah and Ashley Bell RIP Anne Quain RIP |
| Tuesday 9/04 | St. Patrick's | 10.00am | Margaret McGahey Atherton RIP |
| Wednesday 10/04 | St. Mary's St Mary's | 10.00am 7.00pm | Sheila McLoughlin RIP Robert Tyman and family Get Well |
| Thursday 11/04 | St Mary's | 12.10pm | Gary and Kay Stansfield |
| Friday 12/04 | St Patrick's | 10.00am | For those who clean our churches |
| Saturday 13/04 | St Mary's St Patrick's | 10.00am 6.00pm | Holy souls and forgotten souls Sister Kathleen Hopkins Get Well |
| Sunday 14/04 | St Mary's St Mary's | 8.30am 10.30am | Anne Belford RIP Danny McAbe and family |

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Maria Ruscillo, Irene Benson, Archbishop Patrick Kelly, Dean Brownlee, Davina Tetteh, Edgardo Hecate, Dee Rowley, Mary Walsh, Pam (Mary) Clark, Rev Jim Murphy, Winnie Coupe, Zoe Jarman, Karen Guerrero, Win Cowell, Tony Manley, Jennifer Doherty and the sick and housebound in the parish and those in local hospitals and nursing homes.

LATELY DEAD: Margaret Ford, Mary Veronica Cardiff.

FUNERALS:

Margaret Ford, Friday 5th April 2024, Requiem Mass, 12.00 noon, St Mary's Church, followed by committal at the Lancaster and Morecambe Crematorium.

Mary Veronica Cardiff, Wednesday 10th April 2024, 12.00 noon, St Mary's Church, followed by committal at Scotforth Cemetery at 1 p.m.

1ST ANNIVERSARIES: Please pray for John Francis McEwan, James Breakwell and all those whose first anniversaries occur between 31st March and 14th April and all those names on the anniversaries' lists for March and April which are on the noticeboards in each church porch.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

Wednesday 9:30 a.m. till 9:55 a.m., followed by 10.00 a.m. Mass, Thursday 11:00 am till 12 noon followed by the 12:10 p.m. Mass and Saturday 10:30 a.m. till 11:00 am.

Please note that there will be no exposition on Wednesday 3rd April.

WEEKLY COLLECTION: £980.73 **ATTENDANCE:** 384

EVENTS:

SVP LUNCH: The next SVP Lunch will take place after 12.10 Mass on Thursday 4th April 2024. Sign-up sheets are available at the back of church.

PARISH QUIZ NIGHT: The Parish Quiz Night will take place on Saturday 13th April at 7.30 p.m. in the Newman Centre. Tickets are priced at £3 and will be available from next weekend.

SOUP DAY: Thank you to those who attended the Soup Day on Saturday. It raised an amazing amount of £445 for St John's Hospice.

| Day | Time | Event | Location |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Every Sunday | After 10:30am Mass | Tea and Coffee | NEWMAN CENTRE |
| Every Tuesday | 10.00am | Legion of Mary | St Patrick's |
| Every Wednesday | 12noon-2.00pm | Warm Welcome | NEWMAN CENTRE |
| Every Friday | 2.00pm-3.00pm | Lectio Divina | St Mary's Presbytery |
| Monday 8 th April | 1.00-3.00pm | Friendship Group | NEWMAN CENTRE |
| Tuesday 9 th April | 1:30pm | Bingo | St Patrick's |
| Monday 15 th April | 10:30am-12noon | Cuppa and Chat | St Patrick's |
| Thursday 18 th April | 7.00 p.m. | SVP Meeting | NEWMAN CENTRE |

Please note that Playgroup will reopen on Monday 15th April

PARISH NEWS

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH: If you are new to the area, or are visiting us just for the weekend, you are very welcome! Please introduce yourself to Fr Darren or Deacon John.

MISSIO BOXES: The APF red boxes are due to be emptied and the contents and contributions need to be given to us, (telephone 823815) or left with Fr Darren by Sunday 31st March at the latest. Please ensure that each contribution is clearly identified with the givers or collector's name. Eddie and Mavis Kingsley

GIFT AID: IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR TAXPAYERS:

If you are a taxpayer and have not signed a gift aid declaration please do so as the parish will receive 25p from the government for every £1 you give, this does not cost you anymore money. Please let us know if you would like a set of gift aid envelopes for your weekly contributions to the church. Alternatively, you can pay your contribution directly into the parish bank account, all forms are available at the back of each church. Also, if you are no longer a taxpayer and have previously signed a gift aid declaration, please let the office know.

CAFOD THANK YOU: Thank you to those of you who contributed to the Lent Family Fast collection. We raised a fantastic amount of £901.83. Thank you for your continued kindness and generosity.

EASTER RAFFLE TICKETS: The Easter raffle raised £785. The winning tickets were as follows: 1st Prize - £100 (No. 1241), 2nd Prize - Easter Egg hamper (No. 1951), 3rd Prize - Drinks hamper (No. 1725) and 4th Prize - £50 (No. 0944). Congratulations to the winners.

OTHER NEWS:

COME AND SEE WEEKEND: With the Bernardine Sisters at Hying for single women: 18-45 seriously discerning what the Lord is asking of them. Participants will be able to share in the life and spirituality of the sisters. Date: Fri 10th - Sun 12th May. Info from Sr Mary Helen sistermaryhelen@hotmail.com

LOURDES 2024: Please join Bishop Paul Swarbrick on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (July 23rd - 30th). The Youth Section will travel by coach with an evening and a day sightseeing in Paris (22nd July- 1st August). Further details are available on the Diocesan Pilgrimage website: www.lancasterlourdes.co.uk or youth email: youth@lancasterlourdes.co.uk

NEWS FROM CAFOD:

Dear Father Darren,

I hope all is well with you in your parish. I just wanted to get in touch to say a big thank you for all of your kind support for CAFOD this Lent. It has been an incredibly busy time for us in Lancaster Diocese, but it has all been 'good busy' because there has been so much going on across the parishes and schools. Thank you so much for kindly arranging a collection in your parish for our Lent Appeal. So many parishes held soup lunches, fundraising activities such as coffee mornings and cake sales, and of course, a Big Lent Walk!

THANK YOU! We are so grateful for your kindness and support; it really means a lot.

Here is a brief update of what's to come for CAFOD after Easter:

A Year of Encounter

With the general election on the horizon, CAFOD and the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) will be jointly inviting parishes and individuals to reach out to local candidates to find out about their views on some important issues – and express our views too. For resources, more info or to sign up to join a training session, go to cafod.org.uk/encounter The online training sessions for all are on **Thursday 25 April (6:30-8:30pm)** and **Saturday 4 May (11am-1pm)**.

The World Bank is 80 this year.

Following on from Salina's letter last summer, which hundreds of parishes signed, please send the World Bank a birthday message - <https://cafod.org.uk/campaign/fix-the-food-system-keep-seeds-in-the-hands-of-small-scale-farmers>.

Podcast and Events

Please see our exciting Voices of Change Podcast (<https://cafod.org.uk/voices-of-change>) featuring some great guests.

News

See the link for an updated on our Ukraine appeal two years after the invasion <https://cafod.org.uk/news/emergencies-news/ukraine-appeal-update-2-years-on-since-the-invasion>

And don't forget our Year of Prayer webpage (<https://cafod.org.uk/pray/year-of-prayer>) or this video on the Our Father <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FbushwPCqvY>.

Thanks again for being part of our mission, working towards a world that reflects the Kingdom of God.

Wishing you a prayerful Holy Week and a blessed Easter.

Patrick Gardner

Community Participation Coordinator – CAFOD Lancaster

Dear brothers and sisters, In September (2nd – 6th) this year I am renewing the annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham, the National Shrine to Our Blessed Lady. I invite you to join me! This will be the first pilgrimage since the Pandemic, and we have so much to pray for, so much to give thanks for. Some of you are familiar with Walsingham. For others it will be your first visit. In the Middle Ages the Shrine was one of the great ancient Marian places of pilgrimage in the whole of Christendom. It is known as England's very own Nazareth and is a place where the incarnation of Jesus is particularly remembered. Therefore, for the modern pilgrim, it is a place for all who would rejoice with Mary at 'the great joy of the Annunciation.' Like Lourdes in France, it is a place of reconciliation, conversion, peace and healing. Dependent on accommodation type the all-inclusive cost is no more than £500,00 per person. Coach collection/drop off will take place in Workington, Carlisle, Penrith, Lancaster and Preston. For more information and booking details contact the pilgrimage organiser Deacon Charlie Conner on 07895 742 732 or email charlie.conner@lrdc.org.uk. The places will be limited, so please book in good time. With my blessing Paul Swarbrick, Bishop of Lancaster.

**THE POPE'S INTENTION FOR MARCH:
FOR THE NEW MARTYRS**

We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

**THE POPE'S INTENTION FOR APRIL:
FOR THE ROLE OF WOMEN**

We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognised in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: EASTER SUNDAY

*The day was made by the Lord;
We rejoice and are glad.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

*Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.*