

Solemnity of Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord



Today we celebrate the central mystery of our Christian faith, the resurrection of Jesus and his triumph over the power of death.

Acts 10:34. 37-43

Peter speaks to the household members of the Roman centurion Cornelius. He gives an outline of the story of Jesus and emphasises that his preaching is trustworthy as he has experienced the risen Jesus for himself.

Colossians 3:1-4

Our life as Christians should be centred on the person of the risen Christ, and this should influence the way we think and behave.

Alternative Second Reading 1 Corinthians 5:6-8

Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God, our Passover. Now is the time for us to acknowledge this gratefully and live truly as Jesus' disciples.

John 20:1-9

Mary Magdalene finds the tomb of Jesus open and empty, and goes to inform Peter and the disciple Jesus loved. They visit the grave but only the beloved disciple understands what has happened.

Reflection

For us, Easter is the greatest feast of all. This is the day Jesus broke the chains of death and rose in triumph from the grave. This is truly the 'Day of the Lord.' But it is also our day, for Jesus shares with us the fruits of his victory. Let us open our hearts to the joy of this great day.

The reading from the **Acts of the Apostles** is part of an early sermon that Peter gave. In it he summarises the ministry of Jesus, which culminated in his death. But, he says, it didn't end there; God raised him to life, allowing him to be seen by certain witnesses, Peter among them. He goes on to declare that Jesus is the one all the prophets spoke about (the Messiah). Everyone who believes in him will have their sins forgiven.

The Gospel tells about the discovery of the empty tomb. The empty tomb (with the discarded linen cloths) in itself is not a direct proof of the resurrection. Just the same, it was the first step towards establishing the truth that Jesus had escaped the bonds of death. It also prepared the disciples to encounter the Risen Lord.

A lot of the readings over Easter are given to instruct the newly baptised on the Christian way of life. Today's **Second Reading** and the **Alternative** are good examples. In this way the Easter season provides us with an opportunity to reflect on what it means to be a baptised member of Christ's Body.

The night was over. In the morning light the new creation was beginning to dawn. In the garden of the resurrection, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb while it was still dark, grieving over the death of her beloved Lord. When she discovered that the great stone closing the entrance to the tomb had been rolled away, she feared that the body of Jesus had been stolen. Mary ran to tell Peter and John, and the two disciples raced to the tomb to see for themselves. John (the "disciple whom Jesus loved,"), arrived first and peered into the empty tomb. The shroud was still there; so the body had not been stolen. Then John allowed Peter, the elder Apostle, to enter the tomb first and see for himself. Peter was slow to understand the meaning of the empty tomb, but John was convinced of Christ's resurrection; "he saw", it says, "and he believed". Like John, we don't see any physical evidence of the Risen Christ, yet we know in faith that he is alive in the world and in the hearts of everyone who believes in him

Following an ancient tradition, the Church regards the eight days (the octave) from Easter Sunday to the Second Sunday of Easter as a single celebration. The preface for next Sunday, the Second Sunday, (and all this week) is still the Easter preface in which we say: "We praise you with greater joy than ever **on this Easter day.**" The celebration of the liturgy is full of the joy Easter!

Paschaltide (the Easter season) continues, for 50 days, to the Eighth Sunday of Easter **Pentecost Sunday**.



“Christ our Passover has been sacrificed;
let us celebrate the feast then, in the Lord.”

EASTER WORDSEARCH

Y	R	E	N	A	W	A	E	L	S	MARY	SEPULCHRE	EARTHQUAKE
A	R	K	J	E	S	O	J	G	E	ANGEL	STONE	ROBE
M	O	A	U	S	S	T	N	O	M	SNOW	JESUS	RISEN
N	B	U	M	U	S	I	O	S	A	AWE	JOY	GREETINGS
I	E	Q	U	S	T	Y	R	N	M			
T	N	H	O	E	O	U	G	A	E			
E	L	T	E	J	Q	E	R	I	R			
E	E	R	H	C	L	U	P	E	S			
R	G	A	E	G	N	A	W	K	E			
G	A	E	A	R	T	A	Q	U	A			



EASTER PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, on Easter Sunday you appeared to your frightened and disheartened disciples, and said to them: 'Peace be with you'. Then you showed them your wounded hands and side, and they were filled with joy. Grant that we who have heard the message of Easter may enjoy the peace and unity of your kingdom where you live for ever and ever.