



CATHOLIC CHURCHES
of
OUR LADY & ST. KENELM, HALESOWEN
OUR LADY OF LOURDES, OLD HILL



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LITURGY FOR THE WEEKEND 4th/5th APRIL 2026
SOLEMNITY of the RESURRECTION of the LORD

Sat 4th	Easter Vigil	8.30 pm H	Pro Populo
Sun 5th	Solemnity of the Resurrection of the Lord	10.00am H 11.30am OH	Jo (Int) Andrew Green (R.I.P)
Mon 6th	Easter Monday	No Mass	_____
Tues 7th	Easter Tuesday	No Mass	_____
Wed 8th	Easter Wednesday	No Mass	_____
Thurs 9th	Easter Thursday	No Mass	_____
Fri 10th	Easter Friday	12noon H	Baby Luca Livingstone
Sat 11th	Vigil of Second Sunday of Easter	10am H 6.30 pm H	Pro Populo Peter Flynn
Sun 12th	Second Sunday of Easter	10.00am H 11.30am OH	For Laura (Int) Patricia Treacy

MASS INTENTIONS to Father Stefan please

Masses marked H will be at Halesowen, OH will be at Old Hill

Confessions

There will be an opportunity for Confessions at Halesowen from 10.30 am until 11am.

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed during confessions.

Confessions are also available by appointment.

Second collection

On the weekend on the 19th April, there will be a Second Collection for Parish Maintenance (H) and Parish Debt (OH)

Pope's Prayer Intention for April

For priests in crisis

Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

HAPPY EASTER

APRIL Anniversaries

Remember in your prayers these deceased members :

Doris Watkins, Sarah Jane Lord, Graham Evans, Ursula Capp, Patrick Breen, Laurence Smith, Stanley Letts, Bernard Felton, Reg Welch, William Daniels, Alan Morris, David Taylor, Frank Summers, Ina Jones, Eileen Simpson, Mary Gale, Alfred Shields, Dorothy Price, Vincent Allen, Walter Simpson, Monica Evans, Fr. Peter Heath (former PP), Ian Colston, Vince Duggan, Peter Ash, Joe Lowes.
May they rest in peace.

Lately dead

Please keep in your prayers those who have died recently especially Mick Kenna, Karen Barnett, Maria Emilia Iacono, Ray Newbold, and Des Quigley. *May they rest in peace.*
Des Quigley will come into Our Lady and St Kenelm church on Thursday 16th April at 5pm. His requiem will be on Friday 17th April at 10am.

Fr Stefan

The wonder of Easter is upon us, the Paschal Candle has been lit.

The Paschal candle stands as the light of Christ among us, the light that dispels the darkness of the world around us and fill us with the hope of the Risen Lord. The Candle will be kept burning brightly by the Lectern until we reach Pentecost Sunday, as a reminder that the light of the Risen Christ is always with us.

The Paschal Candle is then kept by our font and is used at every Baptism to show the light of Christ entering the hearts of the faithful at this great sacrament of Initiation. It is also used at every funeral we celebrate lighting our way to the wonders of the Lord's Kingdom.

There are no masses Monday to Thursday as I am away on my post easter break of 5 days (well I am taking 3!) and on Thursday I will be over at Solihull Hospital for my pre-operation appointment.

Gift Aid (GA)

New Envelopes for the tax year 2026/27 are now available for collection from this weekend (28th/29th March). Make sure you look for your name rather than box number as you may have been allocated a new number!

As a reminder, it is vital you let us know if you are no longer a tax payer and/or you move address so we can update our records for processing to HMRC. Please get in touch for any gift aid queries / updates / questions to:

Emma for Halesowen parish via email: ga.olstkenelm.halesowen@rcaob.org.uk
or Helena for Old Hill parish via email: ga.olol.cradleyheath@rcaob.org.uk

Digital Collections (Our Lady and St Kenelm)

This QR Code will give access to the online giving portal which can easily be accessed on a phone.



Diocesan Day Pilgrimage to Walsingham - Saturday 9th May 2026

Pilgrims are invited to travel to 'England's Nazareth' on Saturday 9 May, with Mass celebrated by Canon Jonathan Veasey, Vicar General of the Archdiocese.

"Pilgrimage is an important aspect of Catholic life, and I'm sure the day pilgrimage will be a joyful and spiritually rewarding experience for everyone."

Stourbridge Parish are running a coach for the Diocesan Pilgrimage. Please contact Fr Philip on 01384 395308 or email olas.stourbridge@rcaob.org.uk to book a seat on the coach.

Bingo Night

Our Lady and St Kenelm's Bingo night raised £231. Well done.

SVP Appeals Update

If you have a good quality **double buggy** that is no longer needed then we have several families in need. Please bring to church and we pick up from the Narthex. Thank you for the **suitcases**. We have enough now to help refugees who are being resettled.

Reflection for Easter Sunday

Readings: Acts 10:34, 37-43; Colossians 3:1-4; Psalm 118; John 20:1-9

The empty tomb that greets Magdalene, and then Peter and John, becomes the place where their faith in the resurrection of the Lord is born (Gospel), a faith that becomes the cornerstone and the object of the apostolic preaching (First Reading). As St Paul teaches in the second reading, it is a faith that, must lead the Christian to realize that it is no longer possible to live as before: having risen with Christ, we must all live a qualitatively new life.

He is risen! The liturgy's ancient and beautiful hymn (Sequence) captures to perfection our Easter joy with a lyrical cry placed in the mouth of Mary Magdalene: "Yes, Christ my hope is arisen". Christ who loved us, died for us, is alive! He has overcome death, and sin, for ever. The translation of the Latin hymn does well to say: "He is risen" (present tense), to emphasize that what our faith celebrates with fervour is not only a one-time happening in the past that affects our present condition solely in its roots, as it were, but the continuing presence of the risen Christ by our side at every moment of our day. The entire dynamics of Christian life are obviously understood, and lived, very differently by someone who thinks of Christ, attentive to us no doubt but living in a far-off heaven, and another person who really accepts and refers constantly to the living, personal, "interactive" presence of Christ in every one of his human activities, encounters and challenges.

Easter turns life on its head. It was still dark when Mary Magdalene came to the tomb that morning. This is typical Johannine symbolism. Before Christ, without him, or failing his victory over death, we are all sunk in the deepest darkness of sin, death, meaningless and despair. When Christ rises –and existentially, for us, when we know he has risen- the sun rises on a new day that will never have an evening. Today has to be a day of real celebration for all of us. It is "the day that the Lord has made". Have you planned something for the rest of the day that will underline its 'specialness'?

The empty tomb represents the normal condition in which each believer has to encounter Christ after his resurrection. To know him as Mary Magdalene did after Peter and John departed is exceptional; Jesus even tells her not to cling to that kind of perception of his presence just yet. For John, "the other disciple (the one Jesus loved)" it was very different. John always refers to himself this way, so that we can see ourselves in him too: his experience is intended to be paradigmatic for Christ's followers. He saw –the empty tomb, the disposition of the burial cloths (undisturbed, apparently, as if the body of Jesus had simply been "subtracted" from within them) – and for him this was enough. He believed.

See and believe. Our way is the way of "the other disciple". To see – the millennial faith of the Church; the witness of her real representatives, the saints; the credibility of the gospel narratives, and of the Church's dedication to her mission; above all, to see because God, without forcing us, shows us mysteriously in the depth of our hearts, that it is true, and therefore to believe wholeheartedly that Jesus has risen from the dead – this is the life and the witness of the Christian today.

(continued)



Life change. Anyone who really has this resurrection faith cannot live like the rest any more, and cannot love as weakly any longer. It is time to decide on a change of life with Christ. St Paul is aware that the resurrection is both a mystical reality and a moral demand (either Second Reading). The old, unredeemed person in us has died: that should show in the way we live! For example, in our priorities and what matters to us; in the time we give to prayer (a lot more!); in how we talk about others (always well –or not at all); in the way we treat them (like Christ). If we have risen with Christ –and we have, whether or not we are aware of it – "sincerity and truth" should lead us to be genuine and authentic and no longer hide our Christian reality because in certain environments we are ashamed of it, or because certain of our actions don't in fact reflect it, or because we don't bear witness to it by doing all the good it should lead us to do, in our family, social, civic, school or professional surroundings. **"We are witnesses"**! This is how Peter defines the role of the apostles and the rest of the disciples after the resurrection. Clearly, the resurrection transformed Peter and the others, from fearful and passive individuals into tireless and intrepid apostles. To bear witness to the resurrection of Christ is really to bear witness to what it has done in us. "What it has done in us" exists in seed in the faith we have in the resurrection. It only becomes evident when we let that seed develop. That is work to be continued after Easter Sunday.

Shelagh,

Fr Stephen



Easter Sunday

Entrance Antiphon

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

Responsorial Psalm

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

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!

Gospel Acclamation

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

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.

The Parishes operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. The Parish Safeguarding Representative for Our Lady and St Kenelm is Shelagh Ash. Shelagh can be contacted at: sg.olstkenelm.halesowen@rcaob.org.uk. The Parish Safeguarding Representative for Our Lady of Lourdes is Nadine Hancox. Alternatively, the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.