



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

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(Part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered Charity No. 234216)



LITURGY FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 31st MARCH 2024
SOLEMNITY of the RESURRECTION of the LORD

TIMES OF MASS & MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 30th	The Easter Vigil	7.30pm H	Sheila and Leszek Laszczyk (R.I.P)
Sun 31st	Solemnity of the Resurrection of the Lord	10.00am H 11.30am OH	Pro Populo Paul Bae and Peter Ha (R.I.P)
Mon 1st APR	Easter Monday	No Mass	—————
Tues 2nd	Easter Tuesday	10.00am OH	Celebrant Intentions
Wed 3rd	Easter Wednesday	12noon (H)	Celebrant Intentions
Thurs 4th	Easter Thursday	12noon (OH)	Celebrant Intentions
Fri 5th	Easter Friday	<u>7.00pm</u> (H)	Celebrant Intentions
Sat 6th	Easter Saturday Vigil of Second Sunday of Easter	10.00am H 6.30am H	Celebrant Intentions Pro Populo
Sun 7th	Second Sunday of Easter	10.00am H 11.30am OH	Ian Colston (2 nd Anni) Nung's family (Peaceful Mass)

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 (After Saturday 10am Mass) until 11am. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed during confessions. Confessions are also available by appointment.

Easter Offerings

The collections, this weekend, are our Easter offering for the Parish Priest.

Second Collections

On the weekend of 14th April, there will be a second collection for parish maintenance fund (H) and Parish Debt (OH).

On 21st April, there will be a second collection for the Clergy Training fund.

HAPPY EASTER

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 fills 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 upon 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.

Just before I collapse the weekend (especially as I have a couple of Baptisms after our Easter Sunday Masses), can I say thank you for all the work that was done to prepare for our Easter celebrations. There are many things done behind the scenes, such as the cleaning of the church, the practice of the servers, our readers, our choir and our Eucharistic Ministers. Many thanks to everyone.

First Friends with the SVP

Parishioners, friends and supporters are invited by the SVP "First Friday Friends" for a coffee and chat in **St John the Baptist Church** in the town centre between 10.30am - 11.30am on Friday 5th April.

Cost of living worries?

If you are worried about grocery bills the SVP can help thanks to funds raised from national charitable foundations. For a confidential discussion, please contact SVP Conference President Mike Weaver (call or text on 07714 287867) or Vice President Jane Clarke or Secretary Roy Williams or Father Stefan.

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 (1st Anniv) and Peter Ash.(1st Anniv)

Lately Dead

Please keep in your prayers Michael Bishop who has recently died. *May he rest in peace.* Michael Bishop's funeral will take place on Thursday 5th April at 12.20pm at Stourbridge Crematorium.

Gift Aid (GA)

New Envelopes for the tax year 2024/25 are now available for collection this weekend. Make sure you look for your name rather than box number as you may have been allocated a new number!

OLSK only – Standing Order Donors, if you would also like to have a box of 2nd collection GA envelopes, please see or email Emma

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

Diocesan Day Pilgrimage to Walsingham – 11th May

There is a coach leaving for Walsingham on Saturday 11th May from Our Lady and All Saints Stourbridge. There is parking at Stourbridge if you wish to go. For more information and to book a place, please contact 01384 395308 or olas.stourbridge@rcaob.org.uk. The cost for the coach I believe is £25 per adult.

There will be mass at 1.30pm and at 3pm there will be a procession to the Priory ruins in the village and will conclude with a time of prayer at the site of the Holy House.

More information about how important our Lady of Walsingham is to us and our country can be found at www.walsingham.org.uk

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.

(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 (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



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.

Solemnity of the Resurrection of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Response: This day was made by the Lord: we rejoice and are 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, has been sacrificed: let us celebrate the feast then, 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.