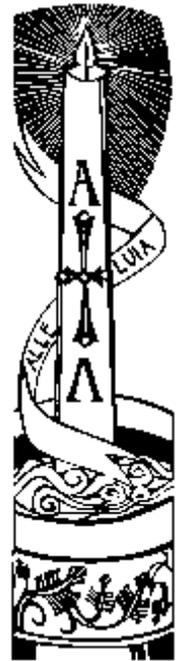
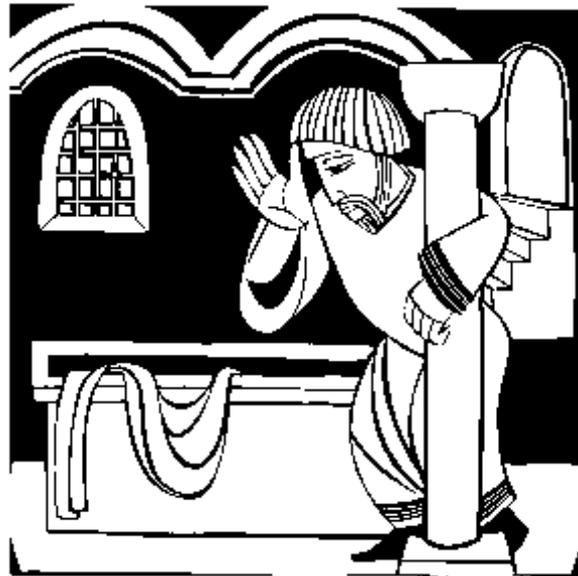


EASTER SUNDAY 12 April 2020



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Today's Scripture Readings 1. Acts 10:34-43 These words of Peter to the Gentile Roman centurion contain the full "good news": "we (Peter and his companions) are witnesses to Jesus of Nazareth's Spirit-filled ministry, to his crucifixion and death, to his resurrection and to his commission to us to bring all people to faith in him as their saviour.

2. Colossians 3:1-4 "Let your thoughts be on heavenly things" means "focus on God", source of all life and love, of which Christ's resurrection is the sign and pledge.

3. John 20:1-9 The beloved disciple, who leaned against the Lord's breast at the Last Supper and remained with Mary at the foot of the Cross, runs faster than Peter, leader of the apostles. He waits for Peter before entering but, seeing the discarded grave cloths, is the first of the two to believe. The author of the Gospel is telling us that it is by love for Christ that faith grows strong. In the sequel to this passage, Mary Magdalene, surely another beloved disciple, is the first to see the risen Lord but, thinking he is a gardener, only recognizes him when he says "Mary!"

EASTER DAY: I shall be celebrating Mass for the whole Parish in the church, but behind closed doors, at 10.30am. The Mass in particular will express my wishes and prayers for God's Easter blessing on you all. Please pray for me. We are invited to renew our baptismal promises, in our own words if necessary, either during the Vigil, or at the Day Mass. And can we, following our dedication to Our Lady on 29 March, and as a mark of solidarity, recite the Angelus each Sunday at midday (or at the end of Mass). In case you have forgotten:

The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary—and she conceived by the Holy Spirit (Hail Mary...)

Behold the handmaid of the Lord— Be it done unto me according to thy word (Hail Mary...)

And the Word was made flesh—and dwelt among us (Hail Mary...)

Pray for us, o holy mother of God—that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray: Pour forth, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ thy son was made known by the message of an angel, may, by his passion and cross, be brought to the glory of his resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

PLEASE PRAY for Christopher Kouwen, Mary Plunkett, Paul Hothersall and Les Miller, who have died, for John Bilsborough, Andy Cooper, Pat Higgins, Rosemarie Kay, Andy McGowan, Pauline Mills, Peter Onions, Nicholas Ratcliff, Raymond Turner and Ellen Verdult who are unwell/housebound.