

Mass Times

Sundays: 9 am & 11 am

Working Holy Days: 10 am & 7.30 pm

Monday to Friday: 10 am

Fr Colin Doocey Adm. Pro Tem

Easter Reflection

Spring is the time of year that we celebrate Easter and the Resurrection of Jesus. We look forward to the bright spring days and celebrating the message of Easter of hope and new life.

Alleluia
Christ is Risen - He is truly Risen!

Early on Easter Sunday morning, three women, friends of Jesus, go to his tomb to anoint him. But when they get there, the stone has been rolled back and the tomb is empty. A stranger is there and tells them that Jesus has risen from the dead! He is alive! The women are amazed and frightened but they believe and they know that hope has been restored. Jesus' resurrection from the dead has changed their lives and ours forever. When our lives are sad and things are getting us down, think of Jesus and his bravery. He faced his fears and overcame them. From the darkest day in his life, Good Friday, to the brightest day, Easter Sunday, Jesus never gave up his faith in God.

So every spring we celebrate Easter and Jesus' message of new life and hope. We can see it everywhere we go. And we can hear it too! Just look around and we will see signs of new life. Just look around and listen.

Wishing you all a blessed and peaceful Easter.

Fr. Colin

PARISH COLLECTIONS

We would like to thank parishioners who are continuing to donate to the parish collections. A special thanks to parishioners who donate through our website. Just hit the **DONATE** button and follow the links.

Welcome to St Michaels for Personal Prayer

To maximise the number of people that can join us for Personal Prayer, we have made a number of changes to the church so that we comply with HSE guidelines and keep everyone safe. We have placed **yellow spots** to highlight where people should sit. Follow the Exit signs. We ask that you **do not kneel-down** at anytime

Many thanks for your help and we hope you all keep well.

CHURCH CLOSSES AT 7.00 pm

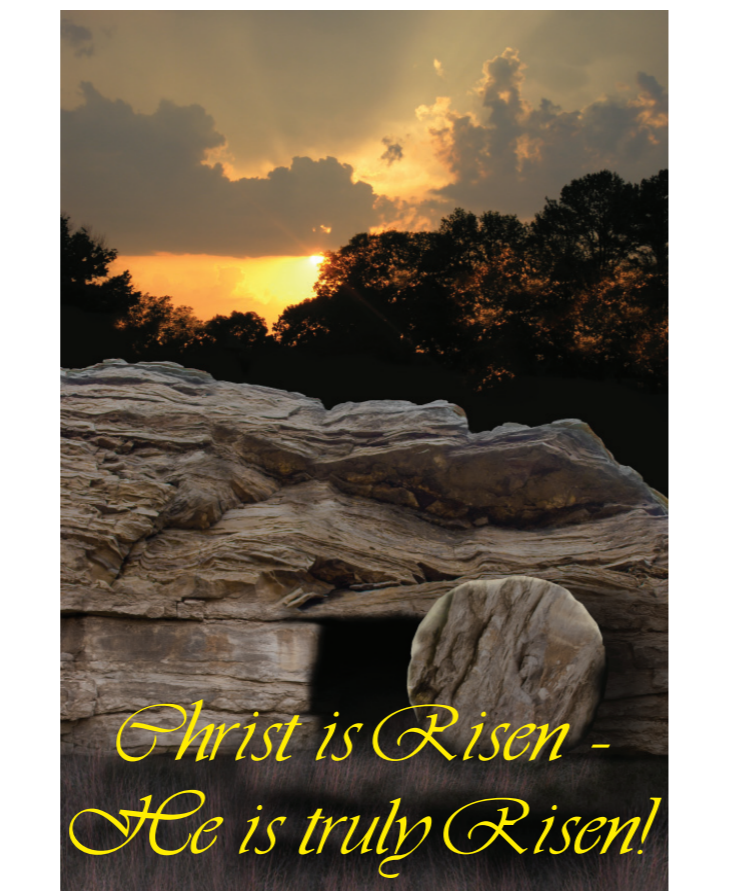
'Doubt no longer, but believe'

On this Second Sunday of Easter and Divine Mercy Sunday, we meet a very familiar friend in the disciple Thomas. We are all comfortable in his company because he says what we often think when we find it hard to believe without evidence. He says what the rest of us are thinking! The beauty of this dialogue with the Risen Jesus is the way in which he is received by Jesus. Jesus brings Thomas to belief by touch. It is not about convincing Thomas at a rational or academic level. Jesus 'meets' Thomas in his suffering and at a point which Thomas immediately grasps and understands.

It is a model for each of us this weekend. While we struggle at a level of reason and intellect yet we can immediately grasp the presence of the Risen Jesus in our suffering and pain. This weekend, we ask the Risen Jesus to take our hand and to place it into His side. We can touch the Risen Jesus in the Eucharist and receive the healing and belief we crave. Doubt no longer, but believe. Fr. Michael

When you use the newsletter, please take it home with you.

DO NOT RETURN IT TO THE TABLE



BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

St Michael's Conference would like to thank all who donated to SVP via the donation box at the back of the church. It is much appreciated. Thank you.

If you would like to receive a weekly commentary on the Weekly Scripture Readings, both in AUDIO and in PDF, please log on to www.tarsus.ie and register to receive the emails.

Thoughts

Christ is risen! He is truly risen!

Years ago, a Dublin church had this poster: "I prefer living doubts to dead certainties"! Perhaps this is no bad introduction to the story of Doubting Thomas — living doubts do lead to different kind of faith. All of us, without distinction, are challenged today — what do I believe? how do I understand it? does it make a real difference? And so on. We all need an account of the hope that is in us — first of all for ourselves and only then, perhaps, for our companions on the road. In reality, faith and doubt are not mutually exclusive. We believe, we trust, precisely because we doubt...just like Thomas.

EASTER 2020

Malcolm Guite

And where is Jesus, this strange Easter day?
Not lost in our locked churches, anymore
Than he was sealed in that dark sepulchre.
The locks are loosed; the stone is rolled away,
And he is up and risen, long before,
Alive, at large, and making his strong way
Into the world he gave his life to save,
No need to seek him in his empty grave.

He might have been a wafer in the hands
Of priests this day, or music from the lips
Of red-robed choristers, instead he slips
Away from church, shakes off our linen bands
To don his apron with a nurse: he grips
And lifts a stretcher, soothes with gentle hands
The frail flesh of the dying, gives them hope,
Breathes with the breathless, lends them strength to cope.

On Thursday we applauded, for he came
And served us in a thousand names and faces
Mopping our sickroom floors and catching traces
Of that corona which was death to him:
Good Friday happened in a thousand places
Where Jesus held the helpless, died with them
That they might share his Easter in their need,
Now they are risen with him, risen indeed.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY...

Irish Catholic. (1) Irish Easter messages shown up by Boris Johnson. (2) Breda O'Brien: Build Christian communities despite cultural opposition. (3) Rural Church communities face stark choices -- Interview with Bishop Fintan Monahan of Killaloe (4) David Quinn: The number of people quitting organised religion continues to rise (5) Mass is more than a place where we go to pray as a group.

Catholic Voice (1) The Greatest Day - Commentary on Easter Sunday evening. (2) Fr. Kevin E. O'Reilly O.P.: Scripture, Tradition Magisterium and Priesthood. (3) Richard Greene: Matt Talbot, an Icon and Inspiration for these Addictive Times

Universe/Catholic Times. (1) Christine Farrow: We can't go on ignoring these attacks on our right to worship. (2) Mark Wahlberg ready to bring Fr. Stu's brave story to the big screen. (3) Fr. Marsden: The Octave of Easter. (4) Q and A with Fr. Francis Doyle -- Is Communion complete when you consume the body but not the blood?

Thought for the day

How did any of us make the journey towards faith in Christ? No doubt a great part of it is simply what we received— usually from family. At some point, did I make a conscious choice? Perhaps at other times, I felt like walking away the faith project? What kept me going? Did a more personal ownership of faith result? Perhaps I can identify with the intuition of John O'Donahue, "Faith is helpless attraction to the divine." In spite of everything, in spite of myself, somehow it is part of who I am.

Prayer

Mysterious God, we are those who have seen and at the same time not seen. Help to look beyond the simple gifts of each day to see you the giver behind—and in—every gift. Help us embrace the grace that we may know true blessedness in believing.

K O'Mahony OSA

Reflections for Prayer

1. "Peace be with you" was the greeting of Jesus on meeting his frightened apostles. Who has come to you bringing peace at times when you were afraid? To whom have you been able to bring peace?

2. Thomas, doubting and questioning, is possibly a person with whom we can identify. What part have doubting and questioning played on your faith journey? How has your faith been strengthened by such moments?

3. Note the way that Jesus dealt with Thomas. He did not give out because he doubted. He accepted how he felt and led him along to see the truth of his resurrection. Who has been that kind of teacher for you, gently taking you where you were and leading you to a deeper knowledge about some truth about life? For whom have you been that kind of teacher?

4. "Blessed are they who have not seen and yet believed". That requires great trust. Perhaps you have had the experience of being trusted without having to justify every step along the way. What was it like to be trusted in that way? Who have you been able to trust in a similar manner?

PRAYER

God of life, source of all faith, through the waters of baptism you have raised us up in Christ and given us life that endures. Day by day, refine our faith that we who have not seen the Christ, may truly confess him as our Lord and God, and share the blessedness of those who believe. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

