

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL GROUP OF PARISHES.

All Saints' Church, St Michan's Church St Werburgh's Church

PARISH NEWSLETTER

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An Easter reflection:

This Easter of 2020 is certainly very different from previous years, in a very difficult time for our country and the whole world. Yet perhaps, in our troubled world, the power of the Easter message is more important than ever. We have come through Lent, through Holy Week and through the darkness of Good Friday.

However that time of darkness is overshadowed by something far more important for us as Christians, it is overshadowed by the most supreme act of love, that of the cross. Central to our worship at Easter is Jesus' love for us, his sacrifice for us and his resurrection. In the gospel account for Easter Sunday we hear that those who loved and were with Jesus at the end have waited anxiously through the Sabbath and now return to the tomb to

anoint Jesus' body. They are as a grieving family, loved ones returning to do one last thing for the one that they have lost. The women are so eager to get back to the tomb with the spices they have bought; they can barely wait for sunrise. Yet they find an empty tomb. They do not understand what has happened, what has begun. The Easter gospel reading from St. Mark begins with the line:

"The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God."

The women flee from the empty tomb yet that is not the end of the story, rather it is the beginning. The good news of Jesus Christ has spread, far from that open tomb to us here this Easter. Christ is risen, alleluia!

St. John Chrysostom describes the elation of Easter, written over 1600 years ago, yet the power of the message has not changed:

Uplifting times!

It feels very strange that we are not all coming together as a community of faith in our beautiful churches, to worship and give thanks this Easter. These are strange times but they will not last forever and we must stay apart in order to protect each other and our wider community. We hope that you and your loved ones are keeping well, you are all in our thoughts and prayers. May we take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and blessed Easter.

God bless,

David and Ross



*Are there any who are devout lovers of God?
Let them enjoy this beautiful bright festival!
Are there any who are grateful servants?
Let them rejoice and enter into the joy of their Lord!*

*O death, where is thy sting?
O Hell, where is thy victory?
Christ is Risen, and you, o death, are annihilated!
Christ is Risen, and the evil ones are cast down!
Christ is Risen, and the angels rejoice!
Christ is Risen, and life is liberated!
Christ is Risen, and the tomb is emptied of its dead;
for Christ having risen from the dead,
is become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
To Him be Glory and Power forever and ever. Amen!*



One Easter a priest and a taxi driver both died and went to heaven. St. Peter was at the Pearly gates waiting for them.

'Come with me,' said St. Peter to the taxi driver.

This Easter is a difficult time for all of us, yet the power of Easter has existed long before our present difficulties and will exist long after they have passed. The passion story leads us on a journey, from the apparent elation of Palm Sunday through the betrayal and darkness of Good Friday. Yet that darkness fades and passes in the glory of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and his act of supreme love for us. Though we are in a time of darkness, so too will that fade and our lives and routines will return to normal. As we progress on our own journeys of faith, this time can only strengthen us and strengthen our world. Hopefully we can learn from our shared experiences and create a better world, a more loving and caring place for all.

The taxi driver did as he was told and followed St Peter to a mansion. It had everything you could imagine from a bowling alley to an Olympic size pool.

'Oh my word, thank you,' said the taxi driver.

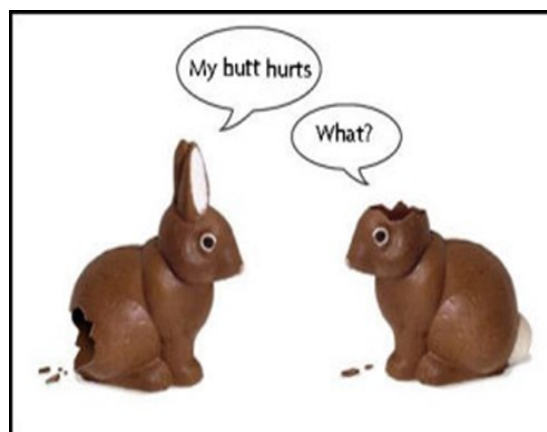
Next, St. Peter led the priest to a rough old shack with a bunk bed and a little old television set.

'Wait, I think you are a little mixed up,' said the priest. 'Shouldn't I be the one who gets the mansion? After all I was a priest, went to church every day, and preached God's word.'

'Yes, that's true.' St Peter rejoined, 'But during your Easter sermons people slept. When the taxi driver drove, everyone prayed.'

Bad Easter Jokes!

- Q: Why did the Easter egg hide?
A: He was a little chicken!
- Q: What do you call ten rabbits marching backwards?
A: A receding hareline!
- Q: What did the rabbit say to the carrot?
A: It's been nice gnawing at you!



Prayers that we can say together at home:



An Easter Prayer

Loving Lord, today we remember the veil of darkness transforming to the brightest light.
The most dreadful end becoming the most beautiful beginning.
We remember with trembling hearts the depths of despair fading to reveal hope everlasting.
The curse of death defeated by eternal life.
Today we remember with thankfulness your willingness to be pierced for our sins.
We sing with abounding joy of your miraculous rise, from death's tomb to resplendent life.
Thank you for the promise of heaven and your generous invitation of eternal life for all.
Amen.

Thanks be to you, our Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits which you have given us,
for all the pains and insults which you have borne for us.
Most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother,
may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day.
Amen.

God, give us eyes to see
the beauty of the Spring,
And to behold Your majesty
in every living thing -
And may we see in lacy leaves
and every budding flower
The Hand that rules the universe
with gentleness and power -
And may this Easter grandeur
that Spring lavishly imparts
Awaken faded flowers of faith
lying dormant in our hearts,
And give us ears to hear, dear God,
the Springtime song of birds
With messages more meaningful
than man's often empty words
Telling harried human beings
who are lost in dark despair -
'Be like us and do not worry
for God has you in His care.

Parish notes:

Following the decision to temporarily cease acts of public worship across the Church of Ireland due to Covid-19, there will be no services in St. Michan's Church or in All Saints Church for the foreseeable future. The buildings are closed but the church is more than a collection of buildings, it is a community of faith and, as such, the church never closes.

At this time we must follow the example of the early church and join together in prayer from our own homes. In order to keep in touch and pray together as a community, we are putting in place several ways to enable this. We will continue with this weekly newsletter, which will be emailed or posted out each week to parishioners.

Secondly we will be recording short services and reflections, which will be posted on our face book page: Christchurch Cathedral Group of Parishes. We also now have a YouTube channel, St. Michan's Church Dublin, which will have recorded services and reflections each week.

At this time, when we are all self isolating and many shops are closed, it can be difficult to access shopping or other services. If any parishioner needs any assistance or is in need of shopping or other supplies, please do not hesitate to contact the curate on 087-9892941 or email: stylesross@gmail.com. Shopping can be left on doorsteps and social distancing can be maintained.

All previously held email addresses have unfortunately been deleted from the office computer system.

If you would like to be added to our email list and consent to us adding your name—please contact the Parish Office at:
office@stmichanschurh.ie

If anyone would like to submit an article or other suitable items of interest or words of wisdom, please send them to:

- The Curate
stylesross@gmail.com
- The Parish
office@stmichanschurh.ie

