

A Message from the Dean: EASTER GLORY

A strange Holy Week and a very unusual Easter. It may sound a bit hollow to talk about “Easter glory”, freedom and new life when our daily experience continues to be restriction, isolation, and for many a deep sense of confusion and loss. It’s not much fun feeling incapacitated and hemmed in.

But in a sense that’s precisely the point, above all at Easter. Christianity has never been a “fair weather” faith. From the very start – in the actions and words of Jesus, in the manner of his birth and death, in the companions he calls to join him, in his preaching of a new kingdom where the humble and meek are king – the followers of Jesus know that the message of Easter is deeply challenging as well as a profound source of joy.

Yes – Jesus is risen from the tomb. Yes – his death and resurrection have delivered and saved the world (not simply Christians or good people, or just people, but the COSMOS as John’s Gospel has it; the whole inhabited earth).

That is indeed grounds for great joy and celebration, and a decent bottle of wine with dinner to end the fast of Lent.

But the point of Easter is not that God somehow magically makes everything better – that somehow God is in his heaven and all is well with the world. That is palpably not the case, not least with Coronavirus. Indeed, at any moment of human history, the reality of human suffering, evil, war, inhumanity is all too visible.

The point of Easter, and the purpose of the Christian faith is not that all this goes away but that we are invited to live differently in the middle of all that. Again, that is part of what Jesus means by the “Kingdom of God” – a new way of living right in the middle of all the mess, where we put into action in our daily lives the words and deeds of Jesus. We go where Jesus goes and do what Jesus does. And we work with all people of good will across all barriers of faith and culture to SEE the kingdom of God becoming present in our world, reshaping our values and inviting us to go out and share this extraordinary good news.

Nicholas

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A challenge from Jean, our Families and Children's Minister:

There are daily prayer ideas on the 'Church at Home' FaceBook page and on the Junior Church page of the Cathedral website (accessed under the Cathedral/Exploring Faith drop down menu). And on Easter Saturday, a new Easter board game drawn by Jean, will also be available to print and play on the Junior Church page of the website.



Pray with Us:

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has risen, as he said."

Matthew 28: 5-6

For: St Michael and All Angels,
Galleywood

For the Peace of Jerusalem and the
People of the Land of the Holy One

For the Ketley family (especially Anita
and Yvonne) on the death of Alan
Ketley

For those who are unwell: Ernie
Andrews, Jean Cooper, Teresa
Hipgrave, Rita James, Norman Sharpe,
Winnie Towers and all those in need of
our prayers



Stay at home to stop coronavirus spreading

Everyone must stay at home to help stop the spread of coronavirus.

You should only leave the house for 1 of 4 reasons:

- shopping for basic necessities, for example food and medicine, which must be as infrequent as possible
- one form of exercise a day, for example a run, walk, or cycle – alone or with members of your household
- any medical need, or to provide care or to help a vulnerable person
- travelling to and from work, but only where this absolutely cannot be done from home

These four reasons are exceptions – even when doing these activities, you should be minimising the time spent outside of the home and ensuring you are two metres apart from anyone outside of your household.

Stay Home, Stay Safe

Cathedral Life Weekly | Easter Sunday, 12th April 2020



Study with Us:

Study Notes on the Sunday Gospel:

Bible notes for Easter Day: 12 April 2020

Acts 10.34-43

Ps 118.14-24

Colossians 3.1-4

Matthew 28.1-10

May the risen Lord breathe on our minds and open our eyes.

On this Easter morning, we stand with the first believers at the empty tomb, full of wonder and awe at the enormity of what has taken place. Today we can trust that our whole life lies with Christ.

In the **First Reading**, we hear Peter addressing a group of Gentiles within the household of the centurion Cornelius. His speech is significant: God wants the salvation of all peoples.

The **Psalms** joyfully foresees the resurrection of Jesus and recognises it as the work of God Himself.

St Paul, in the **Second Reading**, contrasts earthly and heavenly realities, urging the Colossians to set their gaze on heaven, where Christ is seated. Now we have been brought back to true life with Christ, we will share in his glory when he is revealed.

The **Gospel** records how Peter and his unnamed companion slowly come to realize that Jesus has risen from the dead. This disciple, 'the one Jesus loved', symbolises where all faithful Christians are invited to be: in a loving, intimate relationship with Christ.

On this Easter Day, we may want to pray to recognise the dignity that belongs to us as Christians. We ask also for the grace we need to live out that dignity in practice, even when our daily lives have been unexpectedly upset in times of uncertainty and confusion.

Daily Gospel Readings for this week, to use in your daily prayer:

Monday: Matthew 28.8-15

Tuesday: John 20.11-18

Wednesday: Luke 24.13-35

Thursday: Luke 24.35-48

Friday: John 21.1-14

Saturday: Mark 16.9-15



News

Giving Generously: We should be very grateful if those who have been accustomed to giving through the collection plate or in a donation box would now consider **setting up a standing order**. This can be done easily from home if you use online banking. Otherwise ring or write to your bank if you are unable to call in to a branch. The information you need is this: name of account, Chelmsford Cathedral Chapter Church Members Fund, sort code 20-19-95, account number 50265934, reference your name. If you have been used to using yellow envelopes and would like your donation to be **Gift Aided**, please email Caroline, treasurer@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk who will send you a declaration form which you can return to her again by email. If you need any more information, please do get in touch with Caroline. We really need your continuing help and support to sustain the ministry of the Cathedral, thank you.

Canon Imogen Nay is sending out a weekly 'Growing in Faith' newsletter. If you would like to receive it, please sign up via the 'Church at Home' page of the website.

The Cathedral is now completely closed, and all staff are working from home. Therefore, the best way to contact staff is via email if possible. If you are not on email and would like a call from a member of clergy, please contact Marion Palmer tel: 01245 294497. Leave a voicemail message at the prompt and this will be sent as an email to Marion for her to pick up.

The 'Church at Home' page of the website is updated daily with new information, prayers and reflections. Live streamed services can also be accessed from this page normally an hour or so after they have taken place. This week there is a new section 'Sustaining Prayer' with suggestions from the Dean. There is also a summary at the top of the page to help you find what's been added more quickly as the page grows. There are new resources on the Breakfast with the Bible and Junior Church pages going on later this week.

The Cathedral Book Group continues to meet via Zoom, an easy to use video conferencing app (full instructions available!) During April we will be reading "Stanley and Elsie" by Nicola Upson, which we will "meet" to discuss on Monday April 27th from 7.30pm. New members very welcome – email sallydilley@tiscali.co.uk to be added to the circulation list.

Groups aren't physically meeting at present. But you can still stay in touch. Why not set up a WhatsApp group with members from your group? Or give someone a call who may be feeling isolated. A lot of us have more time than usual so why not use some of that free time to phone those people you've been meaning to call.