

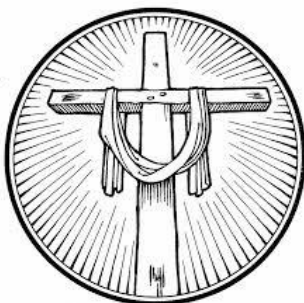
Reflection Easter Day 2021: John 20. 1-18

Wishing you all a happy and blessed Easter! And it does feel a bit more like that this year, as we can actually worship in Church. As I write this the sun is out (but the weather is due to get colder), and the vaccine programme has been magnificent.

I've always loved this reading in which the sorrowful Mary Magdalene approaches a relative stranger in the garden where Jesus' tomb is in order to enquire what has happened to the body. Perhaps her grief, her literal tears or her distracted frame of mind, prevents her from actually seeing. And the wonderful, amazing and miraculous penny drops. She sees truly, and begins to believe.

The question begged for us is: what prevents us from seeing Jesus in others and in ourselves? It's something to do with imagination, a leap of the possible where we thought it impossible, a leap of generosity (especially with ourselves) where we have been rather mean. And something too about our ability to see ...

Fr David



Codes for the Zoom worship at 10.30

These are codes for Sundays from 7 February until Easter Day, including Holy Week

Meeting ID: 881 6251 3403

Passcode: 337962

Telephone numbers (as previously) 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240, 0131

NEXT SUNDAY 11.04.2021 2nd Sunday of Easter

SERVICES 10.30 by Zoom, 12 noon in Church

READINGS



OT Acts 4: 32-35
NT 1 John 1: 1-22
Gospel John 20: 19-end

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St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 4th April 2021

Easter Day

10.30 by Zoom (phone-in available)

12 noon Mass in Church

Happy Easter!

The Octave of Easter (the week which follows Easter Sunday) is certainly a time to say **Happy Easter** to everyone, though I have discovered they do look at you a bit strangely. Indeed it is Eastertide for 50 days and you are quite entitled to say Happy Easter as far as **Pentecost** (Whitsun), this year on 23rd May. **Ascension Day** is 13th May.

At present, the intention is to maintain our present worship pattern of a **10.30 Zoom** service and a simple **12 noon Mass**, keeping a clear eye on government and church advice, and watching the local situation. We will also be observant of numbers attending these acts of worship. We are also hoping to be able to consult with PCC and the wider congregation about new patterns of worship and re-instatement of previous ones, but this will be a gradual process.

Fr David



Collect

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. **Amen**

Acts 10: 34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

1 Corinthians 15: 1-11

Now I should remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he

appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to someone untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

John 20: 1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."

'Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Post Communion

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

NOTICES

Knit and Natter Update for April 2021

We shall hope to meet in the park as last year. This looks like being after Easter when we hope the weather will be warm and dry! Meanwhile, we continue our Zoom meetings on Thursdays 11.15am to 11.55am thanks to Vanessa. All details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

Annual Meeting Sunday 16 May by Zoom, talk in Church.

Community Larder The Community Larder will be collecting on **Tuesdays only** from 10am-12noon, and is allowed to continue operating during the period of lockdown. The collecting point is in the Church Hall. Judith Southam has **home-made chutneys and marmalade for sale** The jars are labelled with a full list of ingredients. All proceeds will be given to the Community Larder. Please continue to be generous.

House Group. Tuesday evenings. Please contact Ian Totterdell for Zoom details.

Electoral Roll revision Carolyn Bryant is revising the roll this year in advance of the APCM. Because of the current restrictions, we will assume that folk wish to continue on the roll unless they specifically tell us otherwise. If you are not on the roll and wish to be, contact the Parish Office by email or phone, Fr David or Ian Totterdell.