

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Week commencing 20th April 2025 Mass Book Page 223

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: Acts 10:34, 37-43

Responsorial Psalm 118: 1-2, 16-17, 22-23 Response: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad.

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia, Christ our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed; let us therefore celebrate the festival of the Lord. Alleluia.

Gospel: John 20: 1-9

Easter Greeting from Father Damien: Alleluia, The Lord is risen! As we celebrate the glorious resurrection of Christ and his victory we wish everyone the joy and peace of Easter. May the Risen Lord visit us and fill us afresh with his resurrection life and renew us in every ramifications of our life. Happy Easter!

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Saturday 19 th April 5.30pm ** <i>Livestreamed</i> Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Easter Sunday Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord Vigil Mass Collection: Your Easter offering to your Parish Priest	Missa Pro Populo
Sunday 20 th 8:30am St Barnabas, Hawkhurst	Easter Sunday Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord Holy Mass Collection: Your Easter offering to your Parish Priest	Special Intention
Sunday 20 th 10:30am ** <i>Livestreamed</i> Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Easter Sunday Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord Holy Mass Collection: Your Easter offering to your Parish Priest	Thanksgiving for 62 nd Wedding Anniversary
Monday 21 st	FATHER'S DAY OFF (Office closed)	
Tuesday 22 nd	Easter Tuesday, Solemnity	
Wednesday 23 rd	Easter Wednesday, Solemnity	
Thursday 24 th	Easter Thursday, Solemnity	
Friday 25 th	Easter Friday, Solemnity	
Saturday 26 th 6.00pm <mark>Sacred Heart, Goudhurst</mark>	Divine Mercy Sunday, Second Sunday of Easter Vigil Mass 2 nd Collection, St George's Cathedral maintenance	
Sunday 27 th 08.30am <mark>St Barnabas, Hawkhurst</mark>	Divine Mercy Sunday, Second Sunday of Easter Holy Mass 2 nd Collection, St George's Cathedral maintenance	Missa Pro Populo
Sunday 27 th 10.30am **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Divine Mercy Sunday, Second Sunday of Easter Holy Mass 2 nd Collection, St George's Cathedral maintenance	

REFLECTION SOLEMNITY OF EASTER

The Resurrection reminds us that God is faithful and never abandons those who do his will. The case of our Lord Jesus Christ illustrates this point paradigmatically. Though he suffered, died and was buried, his death was but a moment in the unfolding of God's eternal plan for the salvation of mankind.

The matter was not finished at all. Instead of marking his end, his death and burial was the beginning of a new story, the story of his triumph over death. His death and burial could not possibly be the end of his story because at issue here fundamentally is a battle between death and life and it is impossible that death will triumph over life. It is unthinkable that God would let his son down in this critical situation after having served him so well even to the point of death on a cross.

Despite his agony and cries of desolation Jesus was certain his Father would vindicate him. Even before he assumed our nature, this matter was all settled. He knew he was coming to suffer and die. But he also knew that after three days the Father would raise him from the dead. He spoke about this several times and going by his words, his resurrection should be expected but paradoxically his disciples did not. The first visitors to the tomb, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary, did not go to the tomb to see the risen Lord. They went to anoint the body. But in the process, they were stunned by an angel who told them that he had risen and how he rose; the angel invited them to confirm the tomb was empty and entrusted them with the mission to tell his disciples that he will meet them in Galilee.

Christ is risen and death has no power over him any longer. The risen Lord is with us even as we read about him. If we open up to his presence in faith he will draw us to himself and fill us with his resurrection life. Indeed, dying he has destroyed our death and rising he has restored our life. We thank him for this wonderful victory. But as we thank him we must bear in mind that our gratitude and appreciation comes with a commitment – a commitment to follow his example of total obedience to the will of God in every ramification of our lives. That is the way to preserve the new life of grace he has won for us and ensure that it grows from strength to strength.

As we renew baptismal promise let us ask for the grace to break with Satan, evil and darkness and yield ourselves completely to the service of God. May the resurrection of Christ empower us afresh to be true to God and one another in all that we do and say. Happy Easter!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. Bible Reading: Gospel of Luke 13. If anyone has any questions, please contact Father Damian by email or phone.
- 2. <u>Message from Father Ethelbert</u>: "I wish you all a Happy Holy Week and a grace filled Easter. My love and prayers to you all."
- 3. <u>Volunteers needed</u> to help cut the grass at St Barnabas: due to parishioners moving away we need an additional couple of volunteers to join the grass cutting rota. You will only be asked to cut the grass 2 3 times this season, using the church's mower. Please contact Edward Hutt, on 07919 626921 or in person, if you can help.
- 4. <u>Please remember our feathered friends</u> who have started nesting. Our nesting boxes are available for £10 in memory of a loved one. The will be put up on the trees in the car park at Sacred Heart and St Barnabas.
- 5. A Day with Mary, Saturday 3rd May at St George's Cathedral 10.15am to 5.15pm. See poster in the Church.
- 6. There will also be a walking pilgrimage from St Georges Cathedral in Southwark to the Friars (2-6 June 2025). The event itself is free. Jubilee Pilgrimage 2025 Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis
- 7. Archdiocesan Jubilee Celebration Day at The Friars, Aylesford <u>7 June 2025</u>. It will be the centre-piece event of the 2025 Jubilee see Jubilee 2025: Archdiocese of Southwark. Archdiocesan Jubilee
- 8. There is a Youth Retreat being organised by the Dominicans on <u>**10 May**</u> at St John Fisher, Chatham- for details see <u>https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/news-events/events/youth-retreat-10-may/?d=638824716000000000</u>



Please continue to keep in your daily prayers the sick of our parish family, Jenny Doyle, Chris Davis, Alison McKenna, David Cockayne and Jasmin Cameron.

ANNIVERSARIES

† Please pray for the repose of the Souls of Connie de Wilton, Eileen McGuire, Joanna Smith, Frank Samuels, Anne Buckley, Thomas Stanley Hosking, John Lory Hosking, Francis Meynell, Rowland Firth, Joe O'Grady, Jo Chenery, Delia Pemble, Mrs Norman, Patrick Coyne, Denis Eccles and Bernard Myles. *Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them, May they rest in Peace.*

ONLINE DONATIONS

BANK DETAILS,

NatWest Bank: RCAS Sacred Heart Goudhurst, Account No: 59004576 Sort Code: 60 06 18 Gift Aiders please add your envelope number and name as a reference