

# focus on sunday

**A day of hope: of flowers and candles, new colour and new light. A day of smiles and of friendship, new joy and new companionship in Christ. A day of hope for those who suffer and who are sad. A day which promises the victory of God's love over sin and death.**



Fake news was what they thought it was. News of a risen body after a tortuous death that everyone knew about. The apostles refused to believe the women. It would take time for the truth to sink in, and then their world was never the same again.

For this they needed to remember what Jesus had said, that he would be put to death and rise on the third day. He said it so often that we might think they would have remembered and believed. Faith takes time. Faith is built on memory of the past and Presence of Jesus in the now.

The Easter vigil and Mass is a grace-filled joyful occasion, marked with colour, music, ritual and prayer. We look on it as the highlight of the Church's year. It is remembered at every mass and at funerals and baptism with the lighting of the Easter candle.

The resurrection of Jesus grounds our faith: it is what brings us through the worst of life, and makes even better the joy of life. His risen body is not limited by earthly space and because of this Easter mystery we can always sense and know the presence of Jesus Christ in our lives.

Happy Easter!  
 'Easter in us', O Lord. (GM Hopkins).  
*Donal Neary SJ (Editor, Sacred Heart Messenger)*

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

**I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia.  
 You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia.  
 Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia,  
 alleluia.**

**PENITENTIAL ACT**

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit:  
 Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**  
 You bring pardon and peace to the sinner:  
 Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**  
 You bring light to those in darkness:  
 Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**  
 May almighty God have mercy on us,  
 forgive us our sins,  
 and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

**THE GLORIA**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
 and on earth peace to people of good will.  
 We praise you, we bless you,  
 we adore you, we glorify you,  
 we give you thanks for your great glory,  
 Lord God, heavenly King,  
 O God, almighty Father.  
 Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
 Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father  
 you take away the sins of the world:  
 have mercy on us;  
 you take away the sins of the world,  
 receive our prayer; you are seated  
 at the right hand of the Father  
 have mercy on us;  
 For you alone are the Holy One,  
 you alone are the Lord,  
 you alone are the Most High,  
 Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
 in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

O God, who on this day, through your Only Begotten Son, have conquered death and unlocked for us the path to eternity, grant, we pray, that we who keep the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit, rise up in the light of life.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**FIRST READING Acts 10:34. 37-43**

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.**  
 Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses - we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from

the dead - and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

**The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps.117:1-2.16-17.22-23**

**R. This day was made by the Lord;  
 we rejoice and are glad.**

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.  
 Let the sons of Israel say:  
 'His love has no end.' (R)
2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up.  
 I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds. (R)
3. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.  
 This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. (R)

**SECOND READING Colossians 3:1-4**

**A reading from the letter of St. Paul's to the Colossians**  
 Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed - and he is your life - you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

**The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Christ, our passover has been sacrificed; let us celebrate the feast then, in the Lord. Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL John 20: 1-9**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.**  
 It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said, 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

**The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES**

*Dear brothers and sisters, through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may walk with him in newness of life. And so, now that our Lenten observance is concluded, let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and his works and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church. And so I ask you:*  
 P. Do you renounce Satan? **C. I do.**  
 P. And all his works? **C. I do.**  
 P. And all his empty show? **C. I do.**  
 P. Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth? **C. I do.**  
 P. Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, Our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father? **C.**

**I do.**  
 P. Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting? **C. I do.**  
 P. And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins, keep us by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord, for eternal life. Amen.

*The priest may sprinkle the people with the blessed water, while all sing:*

**I saw water flowing from the Temple, from its right-hand side, alleluia; and all to whom this water came were saved and shall say: Alleluia, alleluia.**

**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

Pray brothers and sisters, .....  
**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Exultant with paschal gladness, O Lord, we offer the sacrifice by which your Church is wondrously reborn and nourished. Through Christ our Lord.

**AFTER THE CONSECRATION**

*The mystery of faith.*  
**Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.**

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