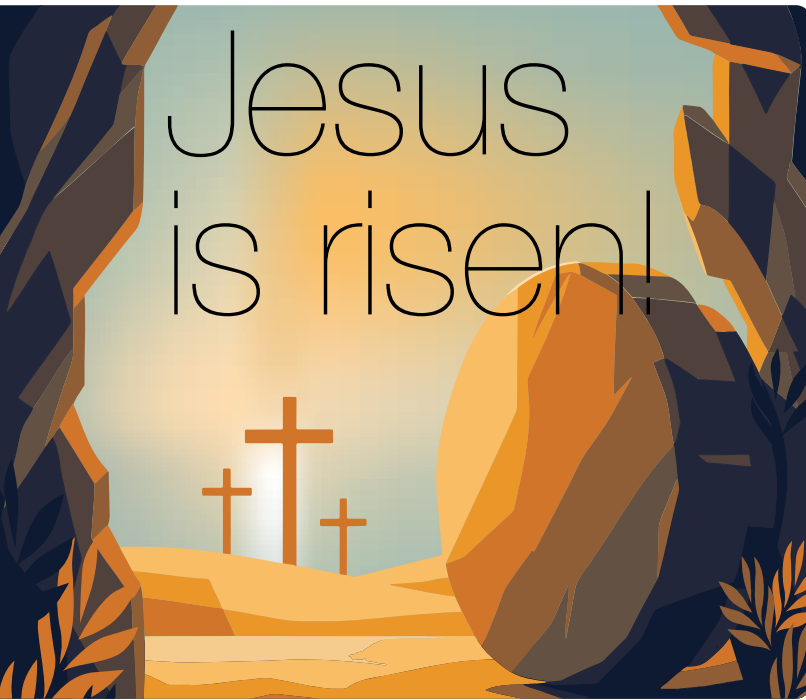


SUNDAY *Plus*

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord **Divine Office Week I** Year A

Everyone at Redemptorist Publications send you and yours their prayers that you will be filled with *Easter joy and peace. May the risen Lord bless you and keep you.*



We wonder what the disciples of Jesus had been doing from the time he was arrested. Except for John, who had dared to go to Calvary, they seem to have given way to panic and gone underground...

The women, the Marys, Salome, Joanna the wife of Chuza, behaved as women always do in these crises: they went on with the business of living. Back in their houses, they prepared aromatic spices... but during the Sabbath, they "kept still, as the law commanded." They did not go out immediately when the Lord's Day was over, for Golgotha was a sinister place where one would not care to venture out at night. But at daybreak, the Gospel is precise about this, they hurried along the road to the tomb where lay, so they thought, Jesus whom

they had loved...

The women went up to the sepulchre, still overshadowed by the events of the previous two days, uneasy and miserable. They had conquered their fear, but they had need of all their courage... the holy women were astounded by the disappearance of the body and, realising that the guards were no longer there, they were frightened too.

The first reaction of the disciples was to doubt the women's story as an old wives' tale. St Peter, however, wanted to see for himself and ran to the sepulchre. Another disciple went with him, undoubtedly John... it was exactly as the women had said; the grave clothes lay on the ground, the stone was rolled away. Then, suddenly, they felt the invasion of faith.

Henri Daniel-Rops, *Jesus and His Times*

If we must all cooperate in the great cause of unity and love, let us seek to do so first of all with our behaviour in everyday situations, starting also from the work environment.

Pope Leo XIV

Candle in the darkness

It was a wonderful moment as we walked towards the church to the band's accompaniment, the snow-covered mountains clear in the moonlight. I used to find the Easter Vigil service very complicated until I learned not to try to analyse it, but simply to look and let the symbols teach their own message. I looked at the candle in the darkness and recognised the darkness in all

the bewilderment, numbness, frustration, helplessness and anxiety I had experienced on this pilgrimage of peace. The light came into the darkness and I felt the joy of it, an inner certainty in all my uncertainty, a hope when everything seemed hopeless, an assurance that all manner of things shall be well and that Christ is greater than all my stupidity and sinfulness. I knew then that I was caught up in something far greater than my mind can ever grasp.

Gerard W. Hughes SJ, *Walk to Jerusalem*

Feast of the week

Easter Sunday

Because he lives

Because he lives, I can face tomorrow.

Because he lives, all fear is gone

Because I know he holds the future

And life is worth the living

Just because he lives.

Bill and Gloria Gaither



READINGS

Today:

Acts 10:34, 37-43
Colossians 3:1-4 or
1 Corinthians 5:6-8
John 20:1-9

Monday:

Acts 2:14, 22-33
Matthew 28:8-15

Tuesday:

Acts 20:11-18

Wednesday:

Acts 3:1-10
Luke 24:13-35

Thursday:

Acts 3:11-26
Luke 24:35-48

Friday:

Acts 4:1-12
John 21:1-14

Saturday:

Acts 4:13-21
Mark 16:9-15

Next Sunday:

Acts 2:42-47
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

Living Lord, I believe in you. I love you. I adore you.  Amen.



Our Lady and St Joseph RC Church Heywood

St Joseph's Presbytery, Mary St, OL10 1EG. 01706 369777

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Served by the Missionary Society of St Paul

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Easter Sunday, Year A, 5th April 2026

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THIS WEEK AT OUR LADY AND ST JOSEPH

Monday 6th April: Easter Monday (w).

9:30am Mass

Tuesday 7th April: Easter Monday (w).

9:00am: Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

9:30am Mass

Wednesday 8th April: Easter Monday (w).

9:00am Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

9:30am Mass

Thursday 9th April: Easter Monday (w).

9:00am: Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

9:30am Mas

Friday 10th April: Easter Monday (w).

9:00am Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

9:30am Mass:

Saturday 11th April: Easter Monday (w).

10:00am Morning Mass:

10:30am. Adoration and Confessions.

6:00pm: First Mass of Sunday:

Sunday 12th April: Second Sunday of Easter of Divine Mercy

9:30am Mass

11:00am Mass

Readers & Eucharistic Ministers 4th/5th April:

Readers: 6pm, 9:30am: M Schofield, 11am: P Greenall.

Eucharistic Minister: 6pm: B. Doyle, 9.30am: D. Sharrock, 11am S. Fitzsimons.

11th /12th April:

Readers: 6pm J. Matthews, 9.30am: P. Cunningham, 11am: G. Da Silva.

Eucharistic Minister: 6pm: J. Matthews, 9.30am: S. Skinner, 11am D. Tierney

Thank you for your generosity. Last Weekend: £389.47 (Gift Aid) £481.70 (Loose Change)

Easter Raffle Winners. Hamper: O'Neil (Pink Ticket 941-945),
Kettle: L Richardson (Pink 511-515), **Crystal:** Ethan Duffy (Yellow 796-800).

200 Club If you would like to join it is only £5 a month which needs to be paid at the beginning of every month. The more members we have, the bigger the prize and more money going back into our church. Winners are on the Notice Boards.

200 Club February Winners: Nora Horan, Jean McGuinness, Stephen Haywood & David Sumner. Winners Envelopes are available in the Sacristy.

Unclaimed 200 Club Winnings: M. Basford . Please pick up Winnings from the sacristy.

Gift Aid Boxes: Do remember to pick up your new gift aid box and form.

Coffee and Tea: Please join us for Tea and Coffee served every Sunday after 9:30 Mass.

Pope's April prayer intention: 'For priests in crisis' Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

This Week we Pray:

For the parishioners of Christ the King, Newton Heath, for Fr. Derek McCartney, their parish priest, and for their parish primary school.

For those who live and work on St, James Grove, Kay St, Kay Brow, Brawshaw Close, Mellor Brow, Aragon Dr

For The sick and the housebound members of our parish.

For Susan Tubano, Martin Makin, Ann Hesketh, Terence Luterl, Ann Fish, Rita Matthews, Doreen Ashworth and all who have died recently.

For Margaret Stowell, Frank and Clara Taylor, Patricia Paskin, Moira Kierans, Clyde Oxtan, Milton and Kevin Harworth, Thomas Irwin and all we remember at this time.

Youth pilgrimage to Lindisfarne: Following on from the success of last years pilgrimage to Lindisfarne, we are offering young people in Years 7, 8 and 9 another opportunity to go to Lindisfarne from Friday 22 May – Sunday 24 May 2026. The cost is £120 which includes travel by coach and full board accommodation. We will be staying on the island at the SVP Camp. For more information or if you have any questions, please contact youth@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord (Year A): When the Word is proclaimed, it is real and active – the Lord is present, and what is described is, in a sense, happening now. On certain days this is made more obvious by the selection of scripture that refers to a particular time or day. Such a selection occurs this morning, when we go with Mary Magdalene to visit the tomb, only to make – with her – a momentous discovery: the tomb is empty, he is risen! For more information on how to book your free place, please visit the diocesan website: <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/online-readings-for-lent/>

From the Catechism (CCC 1167 - 1170). Sunday is the pre-eminent day for the liturgical assembly, when the faithful gather "to listen to the word of God and take part in the Eucharist, thus calling to mind the Passion, Resurrection, and glory of the Lord Jesus, and giving thanks to God who 'has begotten them again, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead' unto a living hope":

Beginning with the Easter Triduum as its source of light, the new age of the Resurrection fills the whole liturgical year with its brilliance. Gradually, on either side of this source, the year is transfigured by the liturgy. It really is a "year of the Lord's favour." The economy of salvation is at work within the framework of time, but since its fulfillment in the Passover of Jesus and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the culmination of history is anticipated "as a foretaste," and the kingdom of God enters into our time.

Therefore Easter is not simply one feast among others, but the "Feast of feasts," the "Solemnity of solemnities," just as the Eucharist is the "Sacrament of sacraments" (the Great Sacrament). St. Athanasius calls Easter "the Great Sunday" and the Eastern Churches call Holy Week "the Great Week." The mystery of the Resurrection, in which Christ crushed death, permeates with its powerful energy our old time, until all is subjected to him.

At the Council of Nicaea in 325, all the Churches agreed that Easter, the Christian Passover, should be celebrated on the Sunday following the first full moon (14 Nisan) after the vernal equinox. Because of the different methods of calculating the 14th day of the month of Nisan, the date of Easter in the Western and Eastern Churches is not always the same. For this reason, the Churches are currently seeking an agreement in order once again

S	N	E	S	T	O	Y	L	R	E	EARLY
I	E	L	T	Y	L	S	A	E	S	DARK
G	N	D	O	K	R	N	I	L	C	MARY
N	I	A	N	D	R	A	E	P	R	TOMB
S	L	R	E	U	T	O	M	I	I	STONE
R	A	K	D	R	O	L	B	C	P	PETER
E	R	U	T	P	I	R	C	S	T	LORD
S	H	T	O	L	C	T	G	I	S	DISCIPLE
R	Y	A	M	A	Y	R	E	D	R	LINEN
Y	D	O	B	R	E	T	E	P	E	CLOTHS
										GROUND
										SCRIPTURE