

Easter 2021

Recently I was listening to My Fair Lady and thinking of the lengthy Liturgy of the word this evening Eliza Doolittle's song came to mind because she wants actions rather than words – I get words all day long first from him, now from you, is that all your blighters can do! Then she sings, don't talk of love rather, 'if you're in love show me!' Well, as we have journeyed through this holy week and triduum, we have heard a lot of words but we have also been shown God's love for us made visible in Jesus, one like us in all things but sin. As well as words this week we have also had visual aids in the porch and in the Church and none more so than now.

The lectern from which is proclaimed the word of God, including at every mass the Gospel, the Good News which Pope Francis constantly reminds us is a gospel of Joy, because at the heart of the Gospel is the Good News that God loved us so much that he gave us his only Son, not primarily to point out our faults, but to show us by his own life how responding to God's love can shape the way we live and can fill us with a joy that is infectious and which draws others to God.

Over the other side of the altar is the bowl which holds the water that will soon be blessed, reminding us that it is through baptism that we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, becoming members of Christ's body, the Church, and it is together that we bear witness to the love of God by reaching out to others, especially those in need.

To the left of the water is the Paschal/Easter Candle, this year already lit because of COVID. At every baptism and every funeral during the course of this year that candle will be lit, reminding us that it is in the light of Christ that we are baptised, and it is in the same light of Christ that we pass from this life to the eternal light of heaven.

Finally, here in the centre is the altar, on which will be placed the bread and the wine, which as we heard on Holy Thursday, Jesus took, blessed, broke and gave calling the bread his body, and the wine his blood, and telling his disciples, and us, to do this in memory of him. We know the cost of that gift to us, we celebrated it yesterday on Good Friday. We also know the responsibility it places on us and how we need to return again and again to the gift of the Eucharist if we are to fulfil those responsibilities of living Gospel values of love, justice and peace.

Today, we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead, in other words we celebrate LIFE, knowing in the depth of our being that sin and death never have the last word. Rather we choose to remember Jesus' promise earlier in John's Gospel – I have come so that you may have life, and live it to the full.

Bidding Prayers for Easter 2021

Celebrant:

Let us pray to Christ, the Saviour of the world. God raised him from the dead, and he himself, will raise us to life by his own power.

Reader:

For the Church – that as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead the Church will welcome and support all its members but especially those who have been born again through the waters of baptism and those who have been received into full communion.

Lord in your mercy

For world Leaders – that as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead, they will promote reconciliation so that all people may live in peace.

Lord in your mercy

For those who are suffering in mind, body or spirit, especially those who have dementia – that as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead we will see in them the face of the suffering Christ and be moved to do all we can to help them experience the Risen Lord.

Lord in your mercy

For those who have died, all victims of violence, accident, natural disaster and the Covid pandemic and Wilfed Ferrall, James Burns, James Josph Crewdson, Mary Duckworth, Berbara Bennison, Terence Greenwood, Patrick Heselwood, Walter Bickers, Sheila O’Gara, Thomas O’Gara and Nicola Jane Poulter whose anniversaries occur this week – that as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead, so they may share in his risen life. Lord in your mercy

Either aloud or in silence we pray for our own special intentions...pause...then

Lord in your mercy

We ask the prayers of Mary as we say, Hail Mary...

Celebrant:

On this day, Lord God, you opened for us the way to eternal life through your Son’s victory over sin and death. Grant that as we celebrate the Resurrection we may be renewed by your Holy Spirit and rise again to new life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen