



ST TERESA'S

Newsletter

18th April 2021

My dear friends

This Sunday is the third Sunday of Easter, and once more the church offers us a very beautiful gospel to reflect on (Luke 24:35-48). The disciples who met the Risen Jesus on the road to Emmaus returned to Jerusalem to tell the others about this wonderful encounter. And once again Jesus appears to all of them.

When we reflect on this gospel, I think we can identify two gifts or graces of the Risen Christ. Peace and joy. Peace: Peace be with you: As soon as Jesus is in the room, he says this to the disciples. This is a familiar greeting from the Risen One. That peace is so much more than what we understand by peace today. As I said in last week's reflection, it is as if the disciples were given the gift of wholeness and wellbeing, based on the assurance that Jesus was with them once more. They are flooded with that sense of knowing everything will be all right because Jesus is there. It is the gift of his love, his forgiveness, his acceptance, his mercy, his tenderness all rolled into one, as it were.

The Risen Jesus is transformed by the glory of his Father in the mystery of his Resurrection, and he also transforms those he appears to. The disciples need a bit of convincing as they are 'in a state of alarm and fright' because they think 'they are seeing a ghost' And we see again the tremendous love and compassion of the Risen Lord. He shows them his hands and his feet, and he eats with them. The wounds of Christ are forever present on his Risen body- they are an integral part of his identity and the disciples recognize him through his wounds. It is then that they are overcome with joy, the second grace in this story. In fact, as the Gospel tells us: 'Their joy was so great that they still could not believe it and they stood there dumbfounded.'

My dear friends, that peace and that joy are given to us too. Jesus says those same words to us- and as we open our hearts to hear them and to welcome them, his love, acceptance, mercy, and tenderness will flow into us. And we too will be filled to overflowing with Easter joy and peace.

I was reflecting on those words 'overcome with joy'. I feel I have seen glimpses of it recently when I was watching the news on TV and saw elderly and frail residents in care homes reunited with their loved ones after so many months. I saw tears of happiness streaming down their faces. I really felt that they were overcome with joy. How much more then were the disciples on seeing their dearest Lord and friend, whom they thought was dead, alive, and present in their midst.

But I also feel we need to focus on the wounds of Christ. For me, comfort flows from the wounds of the Risen Christ. The disciples were healed and made whole, and they were filled with an unspeakable joy. I think they must have experienced such a wonderful, overwhelming sense of comfort. All was well because their Lord and their friend really did rise from the dead.

I know at times that our lives can seem very difficult, and we have many hardships to bear. But when the Risen Christ shows us his wounds, we too will be flooded with those graces of peace, joy and comfort. And we must never forget that his wounds are glorious- as if they are sparkling with the glory of his Father.

In his Easter message Urbi and Orbi, (2021) Pope Francis said “These wounds are the everlasting seal of his love for us. All those who experience a painful trial in body or spirit can find refuge in these wounds and, through them, receive the grace of the hope that does not disappoint.”

Let us not be afraid to take refuge in those wounds, knowing that we will be welcomed with his tender and gentle love. Let us not be afraid to come close to the one who loves us so much that he gave his life for us.

May I end with another quotation from Pope Francis (from a General audience in May 2014) which I love so very much. ‘There is one thing that Jesus does today, I'm certain he does this. He shows his wounds to the Father and Jesus, with his wounds, prays for us. So, we can say with great trust and confidence: “Jesus, pray for me. Show the Father your wounds that are mine too, they are the wounds of my sin. They are the wounds of my problem at this moment in time.’ And this is happening today, at this very moment. We are confident that he is doing this for everyone. We must have faith in this prayer of Jesus with his wounds before the Father.”

Stay safe and well. May you experience the enduring peace, joy and comfort of the Risen Christ.

May God bless you all.

Fr Lijo

W e e k l y N o t i c e s

Live-streamed Mass for the Sick: Bishop David invites the sick and housebound of our diocese to a special live-streamed Mass on Saturday 24th April, 3pm. Please click on the link to join the celebration of this mass.

<https://northamptoncathedral.org/live/>

Divine Renovation: Would you like to join several other parishioners in following Bishop David’s invitation to transform our parish into a vibrant community? The aim of this course is to inspire and equip parishes to become evangelising in outlook. It is easy to register for the first session, which starts on Monday 19th April at 7:30 pm by clicking on this link; https://readalong_divine_renovation.eventbrite.co.uk

Easter Clearance Bazaar: Following the reorganising of Ker Anna, Walsingham Hall and the Club Room there will be an opportunity for parishioners to view all the unwanted items in the Walsingham Hall on the following dates: Sunday 18th and 25th April following the 9:30 Mass until 11am and Wednesday 21st from 10:30 – 11:30am. Items include religious articles and pictures; children’s games and toys; a wide selection of books; craft items; a selection of household items; as well as the chairs and small tables from Ker Maria. Donations will be gratefully received.

Coffee and Company: If you would like to have a chat with other parishioners just follow the link on Tuesday April 20th at 10.30am. Join Zoom Meeting. Meeting ID: 440 321 8376 Passcode: 9z1Umi

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4403218376?pwd=R0dGT2VYR1ZqTW96STRFeTdLcGxQQT09>

Princes Risborough Food Cupboard: Thank you all so much for your generous donations. Donations may be made to St Mary’s Church Bell Tower, 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays, or in the trolley at the entrance to Tesco’s at any time they’re open. **Things we could do with more of:** Tins of peas (garden, not mushy or marrowfat), Tins of sweetcorn, Tins of other vegetables, Tins or jars of pasta sauce or curry sauce, Tins of fruit, Tins of rice pudding, Tins or cartons of custard, Long-life dairy milk (UHT). **Things we have plenty of, so don’t need any more at the moment:** Tins of potatoes, Tins of mushy and marrowfat peas

T H I R D S U N D A Y O F E A S T E R

Saturday 17 th April	6: 30 pm	Brid Daly, Int.	
Sunday 18 th April	9: 30 am	John & Enid Wootton, RIP.	
Monday 19 th April	Private Mass	Philomena Heritage, Int.	Feria
Tuesday 20 th April	Private Mass	Toby & Stephanie Bucknall, Int.	Feria
Wednesday 21 st April	10: 00 am	Deceased Relatives of Shaw Family	Feria
Thursday 22 nd April	Private Mass	Marco Ardimento, RIP.	Feria
Friday 23 rd April	Private Mass	The People of the Parish	St George, Martyr

MASS BOOKINGS: Wed 21st April and Sat/Sun 24th/25th April 2021

Please: do wear masks - **do not** come if shielding, symptomatic or self-isolating.

Please think carefully –

about your own vulnerability – and that of others around you –
before deciding whether to come. At this time, there is no obligation to attend.

For each booking: Names, which Mass, number of Seats and PHONE number.

10am Mass on Wednesday 21st April

Booking: opens 9am Saturday 17th April

: closes 9am Tuesday 20th April

Confirmation: by 6pm on Tuesday 20th April

Email: stteresa.WEDNESDAY.masses@gmail.com

Text: 07761 301435 (or answerphone)

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Masses at 6.30pm, Saturday 24th and 9.30am, Sunday 25th April

Booking: opens 9am Monday 19th April

: closes 9am Friday 23rd April

Confirmation: by 6pm on Friday 23rd April

Email: stteresa.WEEKEND.masses@gmail.com

Text: 07761 301374 (or answerphone)