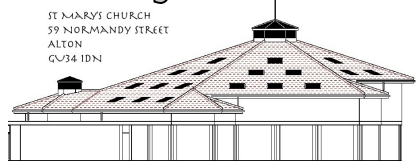


St Mary's Parish Newsletter



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MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

w/c Sunday 5th April, 2026

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF

THE LORD

(A2) (Office Proper)

Saturday	Holy Saturday
	10.00am Blessing of Food Baskets
	8.00pm Solemn Easter Vigil
Sunday	Easter Sunday
<i>St. Lucy's</i>	9.00am The People of The Parish
<i>St. Mary's</i>	11.00am Teresa Burnard, RIP (F)
Monday	within the Easter Octave
	9.30am Eileen McDermott, RIP (KMCD)
Tuesday	within the Easter Octave
	NO MASS
Wednesday	within the Easter Octave
	9.00am Rosary
	9.30am Holy Souls (RG)
Thursday	within the Easter Octave
	9.30am
Friday	within the Easter Octave
	9.30am In Thanksgiving (A-MM)
Saturday	within the Easter Octave
	5.30pm Kitty & John King, RIP (MC)
Sunday	2nd Sunday of Easter—Divine Mercy
<i>St. Lucy's</i>	9.00am The People of The Parish
<i>St. Mary's</i>	11.00am Amy & Len Gilbert, RIP (KH)

Confessions: by appointment

EASTER SUNDAY COLLECTION

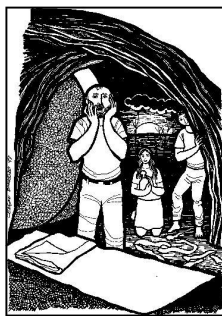
The collection on Easter Sunday is your personal gift to the Priest and forms part of his annual income. Cheques should be made payable please to; CDP Alton St Mary

Easter Greetings

щасливого Великодня (Ukrainian)
¡Felices Pascuas! (Spanish) Buona Pasqua
(Italian) Szczęśliwej Wielkanocy! (Polish) Cáisc
Shona Dhuit/Dhaoibh, Beannachtaí na Cásca (Irish)
Maligayang pasko ng pagkabuhay (Tagalog)
Joyeuses Pâques (French)
Vesele velikonočne praznike (Slovenian)
Fröhe Ostern (German) शुभ ईस्टर (Hindi)
Χριστός ἀνέστη! Ἀληθῶς ἀνέστη! (Greek)
Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed!

Thank you

To all who worked so hard to prepare and beautify the Church and the Sacred Liturgy for Eastertide this year.



Sunday, 5th April

Easter Sunday of

The Resurrection of The Lord

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!

‘He must rise from the dead’.

The Regina Caeli

Reader: Queen of Heaven, Rejoice, Alleluia

All: For He whom you did merit to bear, Alleluia - Is risen, as he said, Alleluia Pray for us to God, Alleluia.

Reader: Rejoice, and be glad. O Virgin Mary. Alleluia.

All: For the Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia.

Reader: Let us pray.

All: O God, you gave joy to the world through the resurrection of your son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, grant, we beseech you, that we may obtain, through His Virgin Mother, Mary, the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ,

Easter Sunday

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.

First Reading Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Responsorial Psalm

This is the day the Lord has made;

let us rejoice in it and be glad.

Easter Sequence

Christians, to the Paschal Victim
offer sacrifice and praise.

The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;
and Christ, the undefiled,

hath sinners to the Father reconciled.
Death with life contended;
combat strangely ended!

Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.

Tell us, Mary, say what thou didst see upon the way.

"The tomb the living did enclose;

I saw Christ's glory as he rose!"

The angels there attesting;

shroud with grave-clothes resting.

Christ, my hope, has risen; he goes before you to Galilee.

That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know.

Victorious Christ, thy mercy show! Amen.

Second Reading Colossians 3:1-4

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia

Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed; let us therefore celebrate the festival in the Lord. Alleluia.

Gospel John 20:1-9

Communion Antiphon:

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia;

Therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.

Prayer to God the Father — St Clement of Rome

We beseech You, Master, to be our helper and protector.

Save the afflicted among us; have mercy on the lowly;

Raise up the fallen; appear to the needy; heal the ungodly;

Restore the wanderers of Your people;

Feed the hungry; ransom our prisoners;

Raise up the sick; comfort the faint-hearted.

**AWAKE SLEEPER, RISE FROM THE DEAD
AND CHRIST WILL SHINE UPON YOU**

A Pope's Easter Reflection *Pope Benedict XVI*

Every year in celebrating Easter we relive the experience of the first disciples of Jesus, the experience of the encounter with him risen: the Gospel of John tells that they saw him appear in their midst in the Upper Room on the evening of the very day of the Resurrection, "the first day of the week", and subsequently eight days later. That day, later called "the Lord's Day", was the day of the assembly of the Christian community which gathered for its own devotion, that is, to the Eucharist, a new form of worship which from the outset differed from the Judaic worship of the Sabbath. Indeed, the celebration of the Lord's Day is a very strong proof of Christ's Resurrection, for only an extraordinary and overwhelming event could have induced the first Christians to begin a form of worship that differed with regard to the Jewish Sabbath. Then, as today, Christian worship is not only a commemoration of past events nor even a specific, inner mystical experience; rather, it is essentially an encounter with the Risen Lord who lives in the dimension of God beyond time and space, and yet becomes really present amidst the community, speaks to us in the Sacred Scriptures and breaks the bread of eternal life for us. It is through these signs that we relive what the disciples experienced, that is, the event of seeing Jesus and at the same time of not recognizing him; of touching his body, a real body and yet free from earthly bonds. What the Gospel says is very important: namely, that Jesus, in his two appearances to the Apostles gathered in the Upper Room, repeats several times the greeting: "Peace be with you". Here, the traditional greeting with which people wish one another shalom, peace, becomes something new: it truly becomes the gift of the peace that Jesus alone can give because it is the fruit of his radical victory over evil. The "peace" that Jesus gives to his friends is the fruit of the love of God which led him to die on the cross, to pour out all his blood, as a meek and humble lamb "full of grace and truth". For this reason St. John Paul II chose to call the Sunday after Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday, with a very specific image: that of Jesus' pierced side from which blood and water flowed, according to the account of an eyewitness, the Apostle John. However Jesus is now risen and the paschal Sacraments of Baptism and the Eucharist flow from him, who is alive: those who receive them with faith receive the gift of eternal life. Dear brothers and sisters, let us accept the gift of peace which the Risen Jesus offers us, let us allow our hearts to be filled with his mercy! In this way, with the power of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit who raised Christ from the dead, we too can bring these Easter gifts to others.

May Mary Most Holy obtain this for us.

St Marys Youth Club 50+ year reunion..

Former members of the youth club had an enjoyable afternoon at Alton Community Centre on 28th May. 22 old friends turned up for many of us had not met for decades but the years melted away for a few hours as we shared our stories and memories of our young days in Alton. We were plesed to welcome David and Rob sons of Phil Tootle RIP. Phil was the youth leader and the driving force behind the club aided by Fr Gerry French RIP who we also heard had died in 2023. We hope to meet again in the not too distant future and welcome other former members to join us.

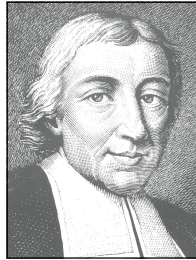
Mike O'Connor

PRAYER FOR EASTER

Lord of life

We pray for all who bring your word of life
as a light to those in darkness
For those who bring your word of peace
to those enslaved by fear
For those who bring your word of love
to those in need of comfort
Lord of love and Lord of peace
Lord of Resurrection life
Be known Through our lives
and through your power
Christ the Lord is risen to-day Alleluia!

Saint of the Week




April 7th, Saint John Baptist de La Salle

Complete dedication to what he saw as God's will for him dominated the life of John Baptist de La Salle. In 1950, Pope Pius XII named him patron of schoolteachers for his efforts in upgrading school instruction. As a young 17th-century Frenchman, John had everything going for him: scholarly bent, good looks, noble family background, money, refined upbringing. At the early age of 11, he received the tonsure and started preparation for the priesthood, to which he was ordained at 27. He seemed assured then of a life of dignified ease and a high position in the Church. But God had other plans for Saint John Baptist de La Salle, which were gradually revealed to him in the next several years. During a chance meeting with Monsieur Adrien Nyel, he became interested in the creation of schools for poor boys in Rheims, where he was stationed. Though the work was extremely distasteful to him at first, he became more involved in working with the deprived youths. Once convinced that this was his divinely appointed mission, John Baptist threw himself wholeheartedly into the work, left home and family, abandoned his position as canon at Rheims, gave away his fortune, and reduced himself to the level of the poor to whom he devoted his entire life. The remainder of his life was closely entwined with the community of religious men he founded, the Brothers of the Christian School (also called Christian Brothers or De La Salle Brothers). This community grew rapidly and was successful in educating boys of poor families, using methods designed by John. It prepared teachers in the first training college for teachers and also set up homes and schools for young delinquents of wealthy families. The motivating element in all these endeavors was the desire to become a good Christian. Yet even in his success, John did not escape experiencing many trials: heart-rending disappointment and defections among his disciples, bitter opposition from the secular schoolmasters who resented his new and fruitful methods, and persistent opposition from the Jansenists of his time, whose moral rigidity and pessimism about the human condition John resisted vehemently all his life. Afflicted with asthma and rheumatism in his last years, he died on Good Friday at age 68, and was canonized in 1900.

Easter Prayer of Saint Hippolytus

Christ is Risen: The world below lies desolate
Christ is Risen: The spirits of evil are fallen
Christ is Risen: The angels of God are rejoicing
Christ is Risen: The tombs of the dead are empty
Christ is Risen indeed from the dead,
the first of the sleepers,
Glory and power are his forever and ever. Amen

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



Please remember in your prayers



Baby Polly Phillips, Matthew & Duncan Graham,
John D., Mary McGinty,
Maria Proli, Francesca Adams, Mary McGrath,
Annie Tomlinson, Rita Rawling, Kate Cradock,
Alex Smith, Jonathan & Lindy Wiltshire,
Simon Wilder, Mary Sturgess, Theresa Davies,
Flavia Stampa Gruss, Kay Hulbert, Pam Barbour