**Newsletter for the week commencing 11th/12th April 2020**

**The Sunday of the Resurrection (A)**

**First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 10: 34, 37-43**

**Psalm 117 Response:**  This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad

**Second Reading: The letter of St Paul to the Colossians 3: 1-4**

**Sequence:**

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise.

The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;

and Christ, the undefiled,

hath sinners to his 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 into Galilee.

That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know.

Victorious king, thy mercy show!

Amen.

**Gospel: John 20: 1-9**

**Father John writes:**

This year’s Holy Week is extraordinary for all of us. We couldn’t join together in our church to make the journey of the Passion, the Last Supper, the terrible sufferings of the Lord, His death on the Cross for our salvation, climaxing with the Lord rising from the tomb. On behalf of all of you I celebrated all the stages of this journey in our church – but it was in a very much simplified form.

I am sure that you have done all that you could to make Holy Week a ’virtual’ journey – following the ceremonies of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday either through a website ‘streaming’ of the liturgies on your screen, or through following the prayers and Scripture readings from your Missal. Someone said that they expected this Holy Week to be very empty for them, but in fact they found that the task of using their own initiative to find a way of praying the Passion, Death and Resurrection was very fruitful, even though it is inevitably a lonely experience.

However, it is difficult to celebrate on your own. I am sure that all of us are longing for when we can gather in our church again to celebrate together. It is not easy to express our profound gratitude to God without music and singing together. Soon we will be in the presence of the Lord, giving thanks, praying “through Jesus, with Him and in Him, O God Almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours for ever and ever”

**The Pandemic – a prayer**

Almighty and eternal God, our refuge in every danger, to whom we turn in our distress; in faith we pray- look with compassion on the afflicted, grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners, healing to the sick, peace to the dying, strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders, and the courage to reach out to all in love so that together we may give glory to your holy name. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**A prayer for our parish**

O God, protector of all who hope in you, bless your people, keep them safe, defend them, prepare them, that, free from sin and safe from the enemy, they may persevere always in your love. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

**Your Prayers are asked for:**

**Those recently deceased:**

**Those ill or infirm:** Joe Adams, Ellie Lawrence, Anne Bryant, Eric Booth, Patricia Hook, Elena Peck (senior), Marjorie Dumbleton, Josie Payne, Joe Venables and all those self-isolating or suffering from COVID-19

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time**: Edgar Beard, Florence Amor, Eric Beresford, Mary Goulding, Frederick Collison, Eric booth, Elizabeth Booth, Susanna Davis, John Keane, Catherine Beard and Gerald Salmon.

**This week’s events**

**Maundy Thursday**

**Good Friday**

**Holy Saturday Vigil**

**Easter Sunday**

Wishing you all a happy and holy Easter!

Please remember that all the **offerings at Easter** are your personal gift to the parish priest. If you are a Gift Aider do use your numbered envelope and, if donating by cheque, please make it payable to 'St. Andrew's Church’. As we are not able to attend any services at church at the moment, please follow Fr John’s guidelines below.

Last week he wrote, “I would recommend that every Sunday you put your donation in an envelope and keep it in a safe place until our Church is open for Sunday Mass again, using your Gift Aid envelope as usual. However unfortunately it is exactly at this time that the new Gift Aid envelopes are distributed. So, I suggest that Gift Aiders put their name and their Gift Aid number on the envelopes that you use for your donation each week. Then you can bring them all to Church with you the first time it is open again.”

Thank you.

**New Pilgrim Path Website of the Week.** Easter this year will be like no other, as half the planet continues to self-isolate. “Spiritual Comfort for Troubled Times” is a resource of inspirational videos and music provided by Emmaus Productions in order to offer some spiritual support at Eastertide during the Covid19 Pandemic. Access this, and other rich online resources for this troubled time, at   www.newpilgrimpath.ie

Here is a list of websites for you to look through and choose where to share the services over the Easter period:

www.rpbooks.co.uk

https://mass-online.org/daily-holy-mass-live-online

https://www.livemass.net

https://dominicansistersofstjoseph.org

https://www.keepthelordsday.com

https://walsingham.org.uk/live-stream/
 And don’t forget our website – www.standrewstenterden.org where you’ll find lots of other information too.

**And finally, …**

**A kind offer of support** for anyone living **Biddenden** and surrounding area. Clive and Sue Thomas are happy to help in any way they can. Their contact number is 07500 041775.