



Jubilate



The magazine of the Chaplaincy of Christ the Good Shepherd, Poitou-Charentes

Our AIM:

- To love the Lord our God with all our heart and soul and mind and strength.
- To love our neighbours as ourselves
- To go and make disciples



Sunday 19th April 2020

Sometimes known as "LOW Sunday".

Low Sunday is the Sunday after Easter. In early Christian times it marked the end of the ceremonies surrounding Easter baptisms. During that era many adult converts to the Christian religion were baptized at the Easter Vigil service. After their baptisms the priest or his assistants dressed them in white robes. These robes symbolized their joy and their new membership in the Christian church. In the week following Easter Sunday they returned to church daily for further instruction in Christian doctrine and ceremony. They wore their white robes during these church visits. On the Sunday after Easter they appeared in church dressed in their white robes for the last time. After the close of the service they returned the robes and began their roles as ordinary members of the congregation.



Prayers and Readings for the 2nd Sunday of Easter

Collect

Almighty Father
You have given your only Son to die for our sins
And to rise again for our justification:
Grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness
That we may always serve you
In pureness of living and truth;
Through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
Who is alive and reigns with you,
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and for ever, Amen

Bible Readings

Acts 2.14a, 22-32

Psalm 16

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

Post communion Prayer

Lord God our Father,
Through our Saviour Jesus Christ
You have assured your children of eternal life
And in baptism have made us one with Him:
Deliver us from the death of sin
And raise us to new life in your love,
In the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, By the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A Word from the Wardens

It's Easter. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed - alleluia, alleluia.

Last week-end was an unusual Easter celebration, but hopefully you managed to take part in some sort of public worship via radio, television or computer. It is good to rejoice in Christ's victory over death in these trying times.

Assistant Chaplain. For our Chaplaincy, Easter Sunday was also a special day when Rev Paul Knight finally stood down from the role of Assistant Chaplain. Paul saw us safely through the last interregnum, stood alongside our last incumbent, and has seen us through the current interregnum to the point when we expected to hold our AGM with a view to recruiting again. His quiet leadership and care have been an enormous strength and support to us all, helping us to feel safe and guiding us through the turmoils of Chaplaincy life. He will of course continue with us as one of our much loved and respected clergy. **We owe him a great debt of thanks and wish him and Val well for a slightly gentler life moving forward.**

Annual Meeting. Following President Macron's expected extension of the confinement, we will not be able to hold our AGM as planned on 7 May. We have received a letter from the Bishop authorising the postponement of Annual Meetings, and extending in post those Chaplaincy Council members whose term of office was due to expire. This includes the extension in post of Wardens and Archdeaconry Synod representatives. Given the likelihood of a staged return to normal travel and holding of large gatherings, we do not expect to re-schedule the AGM before mid-June at the earliest. We will keep this under review and advise of a new date once we have a degree of certainty that the meeting can be held.

Nominations. This is the time of year when individuals normally apply to join the Chaplaincy Electoral Roll prior to the AGM, and also nominate (willing!) volunteers for roles on Chaplaincy Council. We will be looking to approve the appointments of those who were co-opted onto Council earlier in the period, and will need to elect three new Council members to replace those whose terms of office are expiring. We will also need one new Synod representative.

The updated nomination forms will shortly be on the website and can be completed electronically. Provided they are received at the Chaplaincy showing the email trail of the proposer, seconder and nominee, these can be verified against the email addresses that are held on the Chaplaincy database. Electoral Roll applications can similarly be completed electronically and dispatched from the email address of the applicant. Do give some thought as to whether you can offer your time and talents to assist in the running of the Chaplaincy.

Treasurer. Breaking news - we are **still** in need of a new Treasurer to take over from William, despite a year of asking! Whilst he may be a hard act to follow, William will support whoever takes on this role, and we are open to new ways of working, including the option of a semi-automated financial software package that might make things a little easier. Please give this serious thought.

Interregnum. Chaplaincy Council has undertaken the necessary preparatory work to advertise the vacancy for a House for Duty Chaplain. At present, the work has paused whilst we await input from the Diocese to confirm that our proposals meet with the rules and regulations. Understandably, current circumstances are hampering this process a little. We are also looking carefully at the financial aspects of the proposal before committing the Chaplaincy further. We will keep you informed of progress as and when things move on.

Supporting. The efforts that people are making to support one another through a variety of means are inspiring! Isolation can be such a trial, so let's continue to support and share together as a Chaplaincy family, helping those around us as best we are able.

Wishing you every Easter blessing.

The Wardens

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TOGETHER IN PRAYER (Thoughts to guide prayer each day)

All our problems we send to the cross of Christ.

All our difficulties we send to the cross of Christ.

All the devil's works we send to the cross of Christ.

All our hopes we set on the risen Christ.

Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen Indeed. Alleluia!

(Common Worship)

19th. Almighty God, help me to be a good listener to Your voice speaking to my heart. Help me to understand what it is that You have planned for me and enable me to fulfill Your wishes.

20th. Almighty God, I rely on You to lead me through every challenge and battle in my life. Just as You have helped me in the past I know You will continue to help me in the future.

21st. Lord, lead me by the power of Your Holy Spirit so that I will always obey Your Word and follow Your laws. Thank You that You have put Your Holy Spirit within me to guide me in all things.

22nd. Thank You Lord, that You are with me in all the things I do today. No matter what comes against me You are greater and more powerful. I ask You to be with me in all the things I face.

23rd. Thank You, Lord, that I am a child of Yours, set apart for Your purpose and glory; and that You hear my prayers. When I pray, help me to have the peace of knowing that You have heard my prayer and will answer it according to Your will.

24th. Dear Heavenly Father, I pray that You will help me to stop worrying about things and trusting You more. You are my source of strength, hope, love, peace and rest and I want to be connected with You and not the things that worry me.

25th. Dear God, I worship You for Your greatness and goodness. I praise You for Your holiness. Enable me to become more like You so that Your holiness will make me whole. In Jesus' name I pray.

The Stations of the Resurrection - The Stations of Joy

Many of the churches we use or visit here in France have pictures or statues of the Stations of the Cross, depicting the *Via Dolorosa*, the journey of Jesus to His crucifixion. We meditate on these *Stations* with sorrow, but with thankfulness as we come to understand more of what Christ's death means for the world and for us as individuals.

As we forward, we remember that we are an Easter People, that Good Friday was followed by Easter Sunday and that, on that Day and in the days following, Jesus met His followers in daily life situations. By using the resurrection appearances as a focus for reflection and meditation we have an opportunity to appreciate and celebrate the Easter mysteries of the resurrection of our Lord. The resurrection appearances are more than just stories or history, they are a record of personal encounters with our risen Lord. . We can mark these meetings as we read and meditate and pray. We can apply them to our situation as the risen Jesus meets with us and we meet with Him day by day.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life:

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

Those who believe in him shall never die. Alleluia.

I The earthquake Matthew 28.2-4 Suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.

Let us pray *We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory, for in your resurrection the power of love breaks open the earth and frees life from death. As the angel rolled away the stone from the prison of the tomb, so release those imprisoned by life's misfortunes. To you, Lord Jesus, whose life brings surprises beyond our wildest expectations, be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen*

II Mary Magdalene finds the empty tomb Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.’

Let us pray *We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory, for the love which drew Mary Magdalene to your tomb to weep over your death. As you broke into her grief with your death-shattering life, so reach into our broken hearts with your promise of hope. To you, Lord Jesus, reaching into the deepest tombs of our despair, be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

III The disciples run to the empty tomb John 20.3-8 Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying 2 with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed.

Let us pray *We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory, for in you our God reveals the awesome power of love that is stronger even than death. As in your dying you destroyed death, so in your rising may we be raised above the trials and torments of this world’s woe. To you, Lord Jesus, the fullness of your life revealed in an empty tomb, be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen*

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We shall continue with the Stations of the Resurrection next week.

Thanks to Elisabeth Barnett for making us aware of them.

Thanks also to Rev’d Irene Knowles, Rev’d Peter Adams and the “Together in Prayer” Team for their contributions.

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Something else to listen to:

Sunday mornings 08.45 on Radio Catholique Française (RCF Poitiers)

"PERSPECTIVES" - a short programme in English led by Gavin & Valerie Brown, Roy & Carolyn Carter, Derek & Ann Chittick, and David Hawken

It's available anytime on PODCAST:

rcf.fr/Poitou

podcasts



Espace Spirituel Anglophone