



# NEWSLETTER 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL. EASTER SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S RESURRECTION.

A PARISH OF THE MULLINGAR DEANERY

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The Community of St. Camillus 044 9374115.

## ST. JOSEPH'S, RATHWIRE.

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>, 11.30am. Paddy Cooney & family. Faye Campion. May McGrath.

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>, 11.30am. David O'Brien and Mary Flynn & dec.d members of the O'Brien family.

Rita & Laurence O'Rourke.

## ST. BRIGID'S, RAHARNEY.

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>, 6pm. Jack & Philomena Anderson.

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>, 10am. Teresa Nea.

**Weekday Masses;** Thursday, Raharney. Friday Rathwire 9am.

**MASS OFFERTORY COLLECTION: €530**  
**PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUND €487**

Adoration  
of the  
Blessed Sacrament



**In St. Joseph's Tuesday 1pm-9pm.**  
**& St. Brigid's Wed. 5pm-10pm:**  
*Special Diocesan intention of prayer  
for vocations and the family.*  
**Take one Hour with the Lord**

## Rising to New Life

"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad." Easter is the great celebration of victory of life over death.

Ours is an Easter religion. We do not deny or turn away from the evils that surround us: the wars that have killed some 100 million people in our (last) century; the poverty that grips more than half of the human race; the hunger that kills millions every year and ruins the lives of millions more; the discrimination that divides the human family into contending parties, the virus that is killing so many.

We do not deny these miseries, but we refuse to surrender to their power because of our faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Suffering will be vindicated; death will be overcome; a new life will arise: that is the Easter message of the paschal mystery.

"Let us feast with joy in the Lord." Just as Christ passed through death to resurrection, so too will the world pass through its suffering to the glory of a new life.

There is no room for despair: our Easter faith tells us that God will "raise us up and renew our lives."

This is the 'day which the Lord has made.' Alleluia! Take fresh hope, brothers and sisters of the whole world! With Christ our Passover everything is possible! Christ goes forward in our future!

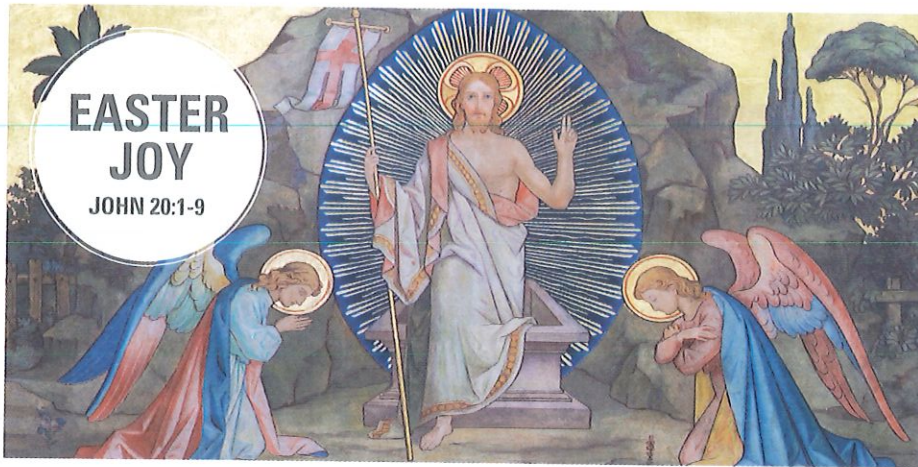
Pope John Paul II, Easter Message

# Sunday Message

EASTER SUNDAY

## THE WORD

Year A • 9 April 2023 • Colour: White • Psalter Week 1



**I love telling jokes on Easter Sunday, and there's an excellent reason for it.**

It is in keeping with an ancient tradition in the Russian Orthodox Church, where the day after Easter was devoted to telling jokes. They even told jokes in church. But why? It was their way of celebrating the great cosmic joke God pulled on Satan in the resurrection. Satan thought he had won. Satan was sure the forces of darkness had prevailed. He was confident that with the death of Jesus, all hope was lost, that God's plan for humanity was destroyed. And so Satan smiled to himself and was smug in his victory. Satan had the last word, the last laugh.

So he thought.

Then something extraordinary happened. God raised Jesus from the dead – and life, hope, and salvation became the last words. Life and hope and salvation replaced death and despair, and darkness. As St John says: "Christ's is a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could never overpower." And so the whole world, heaven and earth, rejoiced at the devil's discomfort.

That's why the Orthodox Russians tell jokes on Easter Day. And why we should rejoice and tell jokes too. Jesus, our brother, has broken the chains of death through the power of the Father. Death, the last and greatest enemy, has been overcome. Death has no more power over us.

Easter is the great feast of joy and demands a response from us. What should our response be?

First, to acknowledge it, let it sink in. We can be so familiar with the Easter story that it loses its impact. It's something we celebrate every year, just another date on the church calendar. We can get more emotional about a piece of music or a storyline in Eastenders than that God died and was raised for us. We can get more passionate about a football match than that we have been saved. Remember the mind-blowing truth we are celebrating this day. Remember and give thanks.

Second, the resurrection is proof of how much God loves us and believes in us. It tells us that hope has triumphed over despair, light over darkness, good over evil, life over death, love over hate. It reminds us that even though people and institutions let us down, God never lets us down; even though banks and governments fail us, God never fails us; even though the church can disappoint us, God never disappoints us.

No matter how old or young, strong or frail, agile or crippled, large or small, or wrinkled or fresh-faced we may be, God loves us and believes in us. No matter where we're from, what ethnicity we possess, or what our personal history is, God loves us and believes in us. The resurrection of Christ Jesus tells us God is on our side.

Imagine if we saw ourselves and saw each other the way God sees us; if we believed in ourselves and believed in each other the way God believes in us. If we did that, there would be no hatred, no wars, no bigotry, no discrimination, no tribalism, no intentional suffering. We would live as Easter people, people redeemed.

So make sure to tell jokes this day and sing alleluia. Let God's love shine in you. Let God's love radiate through you. We are an Easter people, and alleluia is our song. ■

## REFLECT

In today's first reading, Peter proclaims the good news of the resurrection. It's an extraordinary change from only a short period before when he denied Jesus three times, and had locked himself behind closed doors, quivering in fear. Now Peter is on fire with faith. He preaches it to Cornelius, his household, and anyone who listens. He will even die for the sake of the Gospel. His belief in the resurrection has changed everything for him. How strong is your faith in the resurrection? Would you be prepared to die for it? ■

## DO

When the apostles realised that Jesus had been raised from the dead, they hurried back to tell the others the astonishing news. They became, at that moment, witnesses to the Good News. We, too, are called to be witnesses to the Good News. How well and how boldly do you witness to the Gospel?

## SAY

**"We are an Easter people, and alleluia is our song."**

## PRAY

Pray for the community of believers worldwide that they may grow stronger in the faith. Pray especially for all those who were received into the Church this Easter.

## LEARN

Today, we begin the Season of Easter, which will continue for fifty days until Pentecost. These fifty days are celebrated as one feast, the "Great Sunday." During these days, we celebrate the very basis of our faith – that God raised Jesus from the dead

The resurrection of Jesus Christ means that death has no more hold over us

Alleluia is our great Easter exclamation. The word itself is Hebrew and means 'Praise God'

**May the peace of the risen Christ be in your homes and hearts this Easter day.**