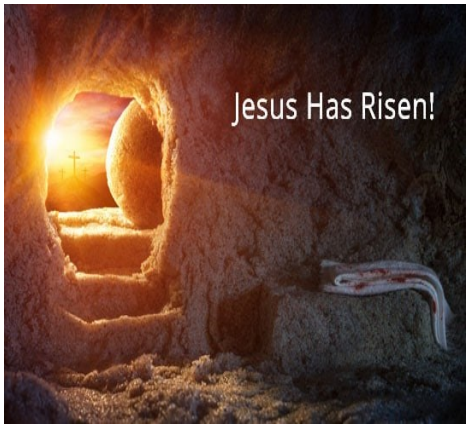
St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth

CATHEDRAL PARISH NEWSLETTER
14 April 2024 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



Evidence of the Resurrection

St Paul says, "If the Lord has not been raised then our faith is in vain." Everything in Christian life is centred around the Resurrection. It is important to note that the first person to meet Jesus on the morning of His Resurrection was Mary Magdalene who had a great friendship with the Lord Jesus. She arrived at the tomb while it was still dark and noticed that the great stone has been rolled back. Expecting a robbery, right away she ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple to tell them. They were alarmed and intrigued and make a mad dash to the tomb.

They noticed that the burial cloths and the cloth around his head had been rolled up neatly. If the body had been stolen, why would the thieves bother with folding up the cloths? They would have wanted to get in and out as quickly as they could. There was something about these cloths that got their attention, and we would be wise to read carefully what the Word of God is telling us about it.

The most famous relic in Christendom is the shroud of Turin, kept in a vault in the cathedral in Turin, Italy. It is a fourteen-foot-long cloth marked with the frontal and dorsal images of a crucified man in his 30s. You can see the wounds in his hands, feet, and side. This is the relic that is venerated as the cloth that these disciples saw, the cloth that covered the body of Christ in the tomb.

As a challenge, look up the Shroud of Turin online, find some images of it and read some articles on it or watch some videos about it. When the disciples saw the resurrected Christ, they knew that He was who He said He was. May the same burial cloths lead us today to that same faith. **Nathan King**

IMPORTANT: GIFT AID DECLARTION

If you signed a gift aid declaration before 31 December 2022, please sign a new one in favour of the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth to enable us to continue to claim gift aid on your donations. Forms may be found at the exits to the cathedral or on the Documents section of the parish website and ought to be returned to the parish office or put in the collection basket.

This parish livestreams Masses and other events.
Please see notices in the cathedral for further details.

Sunday 14 April: Parish Mass Books, readings begin on page 258.

TODAY AND THIS WEEK

WELCOME: A warm welcome to our all our visitors and parishioners. Whether you are a regular parishioner, new to the parish, returning to the church, a visitor or holiday maker, a warm welcome to you all! Please stay on for tea or coffee, and a chat after the 10:00 Mass in the hall. If you are new to the parish, please make yourself known to the clergy.

BAPTISMS: at 14:00 yesterday, we welcomed into the faith of the church through the sacrament of baptism: Sara Steponaviciute and Alfie Yeboah. Congratulations!

CHANGES TO MASS TIMES: There will be **no 07:00 Mass** on **Thursday 18 April**. Apologies for any inconvenience.

***InSIGHT*—PARISH MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT GROUP:** meets this Tues 10:30 -13:00 in the CDC for those who feel isolated or who experience mental ill health. We offer a variety of activities and a hot meal.

PARISH REPOSITORY: The season of First Communions and Confirmations is coming up in the weeks ahead and you will find a wide variety of gifts, books, and cards for those who are receiving the sacraments. Open before or after all Sunday Masses and Wednesday—Friday from 10:00 – 13:00.

COLLECTIONS:
Thank you for the recent offertory collections:

- Sunday 7 April: **£1,837.70** (cash: £641.70 and planned giving of £1,196).
- Sunday 31 March: A big 'Thank You' for the generous Easter collection of **£3,983.23**.
- Blessing of Easter Food (for the West Window) **£284.20.**
- Please consider switching to a monthly standing order. The parish benefits from continuity of income.
- Our bank details are: **Sort Code: 30-93-04 Account No: 0088 3884 A/C Name: CDP Portsmouth St John's Cathedral.**
- If you are making an offering by cheque, please make it payable to **CDP St John's Cathedral.**

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY PLACES – Thank you for your generosity to the support of the Holy Places in the Holy Land and for the Christian communities who live among them. The total donated was **£618.40**.

NEXT WEEK AND BEYOND

NEXT SUNDAY IS GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY AND THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS when we are asked to pray and work for vocations. There will be a second collection for the training of men in formation in our diocese for the priesthood.

DIOCESAN CONFIRMATIONS BEGIN: Sunday 21 April at 15:00. The same will be true for most of the next weekends. During the Confirmation season the CDC needs volunteers to help serve refreshments on Saturdays from 09:00-12:00 and on Sundays from 13:00-16:00. Please let the parish office know if you can help.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: the next session for children and parents is on **Sun 21 April at 13:15** in the cathedral and conference room. Please keep

our young candidates and their parents in your prayers at this time as they continue their preparation.

ENQUIRY GROUP: In Eastertide we will once again run the enquiry sessions for non-Catholics who are interested in exploring whether they are being called to become Catholic. More information from the parish office.

PARISH YOUTH GROUP: The Youth Group (13-17 years) will return on **Friday 3 May** in the hall from **18:30-20:00**. Come to learn about the faith, socialise and enjoy food. All in the age group 13-17 are welcome.

GIFT AID DECLARATION: If you are a UK taxpayer and complete a gift aid declaration, the parish can claim from HMRC an amount equal to **25%** of your donation. If you are a taxpayer and have not yet completed a gift aid form, please do so. It increases our income **at no cost to you**.

DONATION BY ENVELOPE: If you donate to the parish by envelope, boxes for the new tax year may be found on a table in the hall after Sunday Mass or obtained from the parish office during the week. If you donate via standing order, there will be a box of envelopes for second collections.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: The Portsmouth Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place this year from **Monday 22 July until Friday 26 July** to be led by Bishop Philip. Departs from Gatwick Airport to Toulouse and then by coach transfer to Lourdes and staying at Hotel La Solitude. If you are interested email:**lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.**

HOST FAMILIES: are required in the Southsea and Portsmouth area to accommodate (bed, breakfast, and evening meal with full board at weekends) Italian students (14-18 years) for 2/3 weeks in July 2024 while attending an intensive, fully structured examination programme. Good rates offered. Contact 0771 5998 683 or **rosinakw@gmail.com.**

SPONSOR A SANCTUARY LAMP: in memory of someone or for a special intention. For a donation of £5 the sanctuary lamp will burn for a whole week either in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, or at Our Lady's Chapel or in St Patrick's Chapel. You can sponsor the sanctuary lamp in the same way as you book a Mass intention.

HEATHER LYNN SMITH RIP: Please pray for the happy repose of Heather Smith, mother of Canon PJ Smith who died recently. May she rest in peace. Kindly pray also for Canon PJ and his family during this difficult time. *"Blessed are those who mourn, they shall be comforted" (Mt 5:5).*

CANON PETER WILKIE RIP: Of your charity, please pray for Canon Peter who died on Easter Monday. Canon Peter was Administrator and Parish Priest here from 1963-1967. May he rest in peace. His Requiem Mass will be announced later.

Deacon Larry writes: Thank you so much for all the cards, gifts and messages of thanks sent to me at the end of my term at the cathedral. I have been truly moved by the generosity and thoughtfulness of everybody throughout my time at the parish. Perhaps you would remember me in your prayers as I begin my ministry in Fareham. I will certainly pray for you.

CATHEDRAL MASS TIMETABLE

www.portsmouthcatholiccathedral.org.uk/livemass

Sun: 14 April 2024 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

18:00 (Sat) Jean Goodson Int
08:00 People of the Parish *(Latin Mass)*
10:00 Mary and Angus Smith RIP
12:00 Burby Family Int
18:00 Pete Dodd RIP

Mon: 15 April of the 3rd Week of Easter

07:00 Holy Souls
12:15 Leonard and Phyllis Adams RIP

Tue: 16 April of the 3rd Week of Easter

12:15 Alfred Ghosh RIP

Wed: 17 April of the 3rd Week of Easter

12:15 John and Ellen Coghlan RIP

Thu: 18 April of the 3rd Week of Easter

No 07:00 Mass
12:15 Heather Lynn Smith RIP

Fri: 19 April of the 3rd Week of Easter

12:15 Margaret Mary Mealyer RIP **FM**

Sat: 20 April of the 3rd Week of Easter

12:15 Elizabeth Boniface RIP

Pope Francis encourages us to pray for the role of women; that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

- For those who have died recently especially Canon Peter Wilkie, Heather Lynn Smith and Helga Higgins. May they rest in peace.
- Those who are sick in hospital, convalescing or are housebound.

CONTACT DETAILS

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THE PARISH PRAYER

Loving Father, we ask you to bless our parish. Make us better people, more considerate towards others, more honest with ourselves and more faithful to You.

Through the power of Your Holy Spirit open our ears to hear You in prayer, open our eyes to Your presence in one another and open our hearts to those who are searching for You. Help each of us to find our true vocation in life, so that we may not only find our own happiness but bring happiness to others.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen

CONFESSIONS: Saturdays from 11:00-12:00 and 17:00-17:45; also on Sundays for 30mins before Mass when a priest is available.

ADORATION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT: Monday-Friday from 10:00—16:00. **ROSARY:** recited every Monday-Friday after 12:15 Mass. All welcome.

SANCTUARY LAMPS

This week the lamps have been donated for:

Blessed Sacrament Chapel:
Winnie Wood RIP
Helen Sheridan RIP

St Patrick's Chapel:
Ian Cuthbert Int

Our Lady Chapel:
Claire and Nick Int
Maria Haig Int