

Easter Sunday  
31st March 2024



*Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified,  
has risen. Mark 16*



The events surrounding the Resurrection educate us to see as God sees - that Jesus' death was not a final act but merely a beginning; it encourages us to act as so many of God's chosen do act today when with enormous courage they refuse to give in to the powers of darkness that use suffering and death as their tools to keep power.

The resurrection of Jesus is a proclamation that this outcast from Galilee is the beloved Son of God who cannot be held in the keep of death because someone else takes action. Jesus did not raise himself; he was raised by God. The truth that God raised Jesus from the dead gives hope and help to all those who want that miracle repeated in the midst of life. They believe that God's work continues - not least because they believe Jesus' words: "I am the resurrection and the life." Today.

We can all catch something of the reality of the resurrection when we experience new life in the midst of hopelessness. Through the difficulties that we face in life, that new life, the light and love of God has been all around us as we lived through tricky events or times. We've seen it in those who stand up against injustices around the world, those who constantly help others and those who work for a better world. We can see it in the beloved disciples who see in the dark what no one else sees. For all this we rejoice. It is Easter in our midst; it is the refusal to accept that anyone should be left for dead. It is a time to remind ourselves that Jesus is risen and he is living through the actions of so many people around the world; actions we can see as clearly as the flowers that are beginning to blossom and bring brightness to our world.



**This week let us pray for:**

- ◆ the light of the Easter message shining across the world;
- ◆ all those who are feeling isolated;
- ◆ for the families of Mrs Waterfield and Mr Rylands;
- ◆ all those connected to our community who are unwell, upset or mourning.



**"We are the Easter people, and Hallelujah is our song."  
Pope Saint John Paul II**

**A Prayer for Good Friday**

**My Lord, Your son has suffered so much, shed so much blood.**

**I was born with so many faults and my nature is so full of weakness,**

**and yet Your son Jesus has died on the cross. For me.**

**I know Your grace has the power to cleanse me of my many sins and to make me more like Your Son. Thank You for Your goodness and love for me. I ask You, Father, to watch over me - always. Amen.**

**An Easter Prayer**

Dear God,

Thank You that You make all things new. Thank You for the victory and power in Your name. Thank You that You hold the keys over death, that by Your might, Jesus was raised from the grave, paving the way for us to have new life with You. Thank You that You had a plan, that You made a way.

**We confess our need for You...fresh...new...again. We ask that You renew our hearts, minds, and lives, for the days ahead. We pray for Your refreshing over us. Amen**