

THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD
SUNDAY 9TH APRIL 2023

Seeing in the dark: the beloved disciple

For John, as we hear in his Gospel, the Easter story begins very early in the morning of the first day of the week when it is “still dark”. But the Easter story has its finest expression in the new life in Christ, when, as John tells us,

*the night is over
and the real light is already shining.
Anyone who claims to be in the light
but hates his brother
is still in the dark. (1 John 2:8-9)*

The Easter we celebrate is an invitation out of darkness into the light of the risen Christ. In that light we see him and recognise each other as brother and sister in the Lord. It is that light which enables us to tell that night has ended and day is on its way back. It is that light which summons us to leave loitering in the dark. From hanging around the graveyard it calls us to look for hope elsewhere. It suggests to us that we write other people’s epitaphs too readily. When Jesus conquers death, nobody and nothing can be written off as a lost cause.

The love that sees in the dark

Easter began in the dark and began in the tomb. The story begins with someone whom many had written off as a lost cause: Mary Magdalene. When she reaches the tomb she sees that the stone is rolled away, and she interprets this to mean that Jesus’ body must have been stolen. She finds it easier to believe in the night-time antics of grave robbers than the night-time antics of a God who refuses to let death have the last word.

When Peter and the beloved disciple hear her story they immediately start running for the tomb, and we have a marvellous action picture of the Easter jog! The beloved disciple runs faster than Peter, reaches the tomb first, looks in to see the cloths lying on the ground, and then waits for Peter. Peter goes in and sees the cloths. The climax of the story is when the beloved disciple goes in and sees the same evidence: in contrast to Peter, he believes. He sees more than discarded cloths – he sees with the eyes of faith what this means. His is a love that sees through the dark.

One of the marks of John’s Gospel is the special love between Jesus and one of the disciples. The beloved disciple is presented as the ideal follower of Jesus, the one who is

closest to him at the Last Supper, and the one who stands at the foot of the cross when he dies. Now in running to the tomb on Easter morning, the urgency of his love gets him there first, and the sensitivity of his love makes him the first to believe. And later when Jesus stands unrecognised on the shore of Lake Tiberias, it is the beloved disciple who informs Peter: "It is the Lord." His is a love that gets him there first.

If Peter enjoys the "primacy of authority", the beloved disciple enjoys the "primacy of love". This takes nothing away from Peter: it just means that, in Paul's phrase, "if love can persuade", it can get you to the point quicker!

Seeing more

So we look to the quality of our own seeing and hope, so that when the time comes we too will have the love to enable us to see through the dark. In celebrating Easter we rejoice in the light that darkness cannot overpower; we celebrate that God raised Jesus from the dead and that God extends that homecoming to all of us; we bless God for the faith that challenges us always to see more in others because of our love for our God.

In that Easter faith, we can tell that the night is gone and the day is on its way back.

The Resurrection of the Lord - Solemnity Sunday 9th April 2023

Parish Diary

Sunday Masses	10.00 am & 6.30 pm
Weekday Masses	9.00 am
Wednesdays	9.00 am – Eucharistic Service – Office Closed
Friday	Adoration following 9.00 am Mass
Holy Days of Obligation	9.30am & 7.30pm
Confessions	Saturdays 9.30 am - 10.00 am
Legion of Mary	After Sunday morning mass (11.30 am onwards)
Baptisms	By Appointment (Saturdays 12.00 pm - 12.30 pm)

Liturgical Calendar

Sunday 9 th April	The Resurrection of the Lord - Solemnity
Monday 10 th April	Monday within the Octave of Easter
Tuesday 11 th April	Tuesday within the Octave of Easter
Wednesday 12 th April	Wednesday within the Octave of Easter
Thursday 13 th April	Thursday within the Octave of Easter
Friday 14 th April	Friday within the Octave of Easter
Saturday 15 th April	Saturday within the Octave of Easter
Sunday 16 th April	Second Sunday of Easter (A) (Divine Mercy Sunday) (Octave of Easter)

Masses & Intentions This Week

Sunday 9 th April (Easter Sunday)	10.00 am	Teresa Guidera – RIP (donor – Pauline Guidera) For Parishioners
	6.30 pm	
Monday 10 th April	9.00 am	
Tuesday 11 th April	9.00 am	
Wednesday 12 th April	9.00 am	Eucharistic Service
Thursday 13 th April	9.00 am	
Friday 14 th April	9.00 am	

Saturday 15 th April	9.00 am	Michael Townsend – RIP/Anniversary (donor – Evelyn Townsend)
Sunday 16 th April	10.00 am	Patsy Guidera RIP (donor – Pauline Guidera)
	6.30 pm	For Parishioners

Kindly keep in your prayers *Gina, Nicky and Pedro* who received the Sacraments of Initiation during the Easter Vigil Service

Easter 2023 Timetable

Easter Sunday 9th April

Morning Mass	10.00 am
Evening Mass	6.30 pm

Parish Notice Board

Gift Aid

"Many thanks to those who are in the Gift Aid Scheme. For those parishioners who have continued to use the Gift Aid envelopes, new numbered boxes of envelopes are at the back of the church for collection. Parishioners who are in the Gift Aid Scheme and would like to recommence using Gift Aid envelopes, if your numbered box is not there, please use one of the unnumbered boxes and put your Gift Aid number on the envelopes so that any future donation can be linked to your account.

For those in the Gift Aid Scheme who would like written confirmation of the total amount of donations they have made for the tax year ending 5 April 2023, to confirm that they will be paying a sufficient amount of tax for the Parish to reclaim or for their own tax return, please contact the Parish Secretary.

Gift Aid Declaration and Bank Mandate Forms will also be at the back of the church for those who would like to join the Gift Aid Scheme or would like to switch to online transfers.

Once again, thank you for joining the Gift Aid Scheme, which brings in extra revenue for the Parish at no extra cost to the donor."

Social Committee

The draw for the Easter hamper will take place in the lounge after mass there will also be a special welcome to the three RCIA candidates during our coffee morning. All most welcome.

Parish Finance:

Weekly Collection

The collection for 2.4.23 is as follows:
Main collection: £389.15 (Envelopes: £139, LP £250.15)
Hall booking £120 (cash)
Total banked: £519.15

Communication Desk

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound in our Parish:

Alice Briody, John Buckley, Maureen Chaliss, Anna Heneghan, Brenda Humphreys, Pat Lark, George Malaj, Margaret, Eileen McCaffery, Sheila McCurdy, Doris Mizzi, Sheila

Murphy, Sheila Nugent, Mary O'Hagan, Rachel, Pradeepan Ragunathan, Mary Scully, Greta Street, Voni Tesi, Rose Yates, Claire Ryan in Emerson Court.

Anniversaries Occurring at this time – April/May

V. Alexander, Primuse Bernard, Finbar Buckley, Tommy Higgins, Kathy Lucas, Annie Medlin, Patrick Medlin, Anne Melia, Bernard Mithen, Padaer Phelan, Jim Shanahan, Nell Sullivan, Margaret Thomas, Michael Townsend

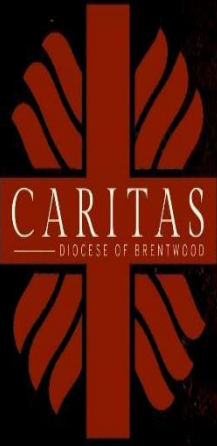
Parish Priest: Fr Britto Belevendran, (01708 507020)
Parish Administrator: Daphne Thomas, Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri (10am-1pm) (01708 507020)
Pastoral Team Leader: Graham Daniels (07542 588763)
Steward of the Gospel: Mandy Meadway (07801 470516)
Parish Finance: Mrs Stephanie Mallen (07983 962465)
Diocesan Safeguarding Representative: Katie Nash (07825 293308)
Hall & Lounge Bookings: English Martyrs Parish Office (01708 507020)
Church & Hall Caretaker: Mike Dineen (07415 727926)
Legion of Mary: Michael Okafor (07956 586370)

The English Martyrs Catholic Church (Diocese of Brentwood)
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Founded 1955

Diocese of Brentwood

Registered Charity No. 23409



Alleluia! He is risen!