

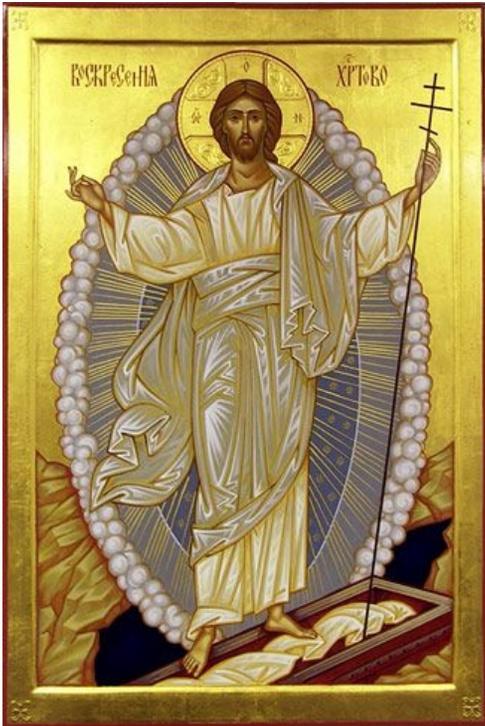
In Touch across North Barrow

Sunday 12th. April 2020
Easter Sunday

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us:
so let us celebrate the feast,
not with the old leaven
of corruption and wickedness:
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth

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**Fr Jack, Clare
and family
wish you
a 'strange'
but joy-filled
Easter!**

Collect for today

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity. **Amen.**

Readings : Acts 10:34-43; 1 Corinthians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10
or during the week from the daily prayer and readings.

The Easter Gospel

**Alleluia! Christ our passover
has been sacrificed for us;
let us celebrate the feast then, in the Lord. Alleluia!**

28:¹ After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And 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. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' ⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

A message of Easter hope in the midst of confusion.

It is an Easter unlike any other. The cry of victory still rises from the church, **Alleluia! Christ is risen**, but his Easter people are dispersed, church buildings empty and echoing. Not even in the dark days of the Medieval plagues were church buildings shut and public worship suspended.

The earthquake that is Covid-19 has shaken us all, but the message of the angels to the women who went to Jesus' tomb is maybe more powerful today. **'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said'**.

The disciples were disorientated that first Easter Day. Nothing made sense, and they were about to enter a new normal. A new normal that would transform the world and our human view of life and death. Do not fear. Hope has not died. Love has not been extinguished. Jesus is alive!

For the time being, we are like those disciples, hidden behind the locked doors of the upper room, most of us from necessity rather than fear, though I know that for many fear lurks in the background. The message from the upper room is that the hidden church still functions, still prays, still meets with the risen Lord and is taught and nourished by him.

The day will come when we will be released from the upper room of isolation. When once again we will be freed to proclaim afresh the Risen Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

That day will most likely come at different times from different groups and ages, but it will come. Until then we are called like the disciples to watch and wait, to listen and to pray, and shout out in our own homes the Easter greeting.

**Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

The prayer that follows is for all of us, but especially those watching the facebook Easter Eucharist this week.

With love and prayers,

Fr. Jack

A prayer for those joining the Easter facebook video...

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day.
Amen.

after the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester



The Easter Anthems

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us:
so let us celebrate the feast,
not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness:
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

1 Corinthians 5.7b, 8

Christ once raised from the dead dies no more:
death has no more dominion over him.

In dying he died to sin once for all:
in living he lives to God.

See yourselves therefore as dead to sin:
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6.9–11

Christ has been raised from the dead:
the first fruits of those who sleep.

For as by man came death:
by man has come also the resurrection of the dead;
for as in Adam all die:
even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15.20–22

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

SUNDAY
MONDAY
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY
Reflections during the week using Lectio Divina <i>Use the verse, or verses, for each day following the pattern on the previous page. Each colour corresponds to a day of the week. Write any reflections, or ways in which you feel God is speaking to you in the boxes above</i>

NEWS AND NOTES

Support HUB St Mary's Hospice and AgeUK Barrow have opened a support Hub at the Living Well Centre to offer advice and support to those who are self-isolation within the community. This is **NOT** for medical advice - for that call 111 or 999 in an emergency.

Support Hub 9am - 5pm Mon to Fri. Call 01229 444407

Drop off point for food/ essentials to make up hampers
Living well Centre, Duke Street, Barrow LA14 1XU

Distribution : If you have received this by post and have an email address, please let Fr. Jack know so that we can send it electronically.

Hospital Chaplaincy : Please pray for Deacon Debbie in her role as hospital chaplain. With other members of the Morcombe Bay team off and self isolating she is under a lot of stress.

HELPING OUT : If you are aware of neighbours who are in need a being missed by the current system of support, please let Fr. Jack know so their needs can be met or passed on.

The Sunday Worship video is available on the St. James facebook page from Sunday morning.

Resources :

Radio and TV : Radio Cumbria Morning Service at 8.00am
- Bishop James has talked about his spot being 9.30am this Easter.
CandoFM (106.3) Faith in Furness at 10.30am
BBC Morning Worship at 10.45 on BBC1

For those who are online, the Church of England website has daily and Sunday resources to watch, download and join in with.
The website is : churchofengland.org

DAILY PRAYER and BIBLE READINGS

EASTER *We give thanks that God has raised Jesus Christ from the dead, proclaiming his victory over evil, sin and death through the cross.*

EASTER MONDAY Acts 2:14-33, Matthew 28:8-15
Pray for the staff of Furness General Hospital as they treat those suffering most from the virus.

EASTER TUESDAY Acts 2:36-41, John 20:11-18
Pray for those working to discover and trial the drugs, vaccines and antibody tests that will help us to overcome this virus.

EASTER WEDNESDAY Acts 3:1-10, Luke 24:13-35
Pray for our incoming Archbishop, Stephen, and for our bishops James and Emma in their ministry.

EASTER THURSDAY Acts 3:11-26, Luke 24:35-48
Pray for the work of the Foodbank and for all local community groups supporting the isolated and vulnerable.

EASTER FRIDAY Acts 4:1-12, John 21:1-14
Pray for those we know who are ill or struggling with their mental health during isolation.

EASTER SATURDAY Acts 4:13-21, Mark 16:9-15
Pray for those families finding it hard to occupy their children during the lock-down, especially for single parent families.

If you have prayer requests / thanksgivings, then please let Fr. Jack know either by email or 'phone.

NEXT SUNDAY THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 2:14a, 22-32; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31