



Parish Mission Statement

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind...and your neighbour as yourself. Matthew 22:37-38

Sunday Podcasts of Sunday Morning Services are available on YouTube as are the Parish Podcasts 'A time to speak.'

Epitaphs

In a cemetery in Silver City, Nevada:

*Here lies Butch,
we planted him raw.
He was quick with
a trigger,
but slow on the
draw.*

John Penny's epitaph in the cemetery in Wimborne:

*Reader
if cash thou art
in want of any,
dig four feet deep
and thou wilt find
a Penny.*

Playing with names in a cemetery in Ruidoso, New Mexico:

*Here lies
Johnny Yeast
Pardon me
For not rising.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Behold I am making all things new!" (Revelation 21:5)

It is tempting to fall into the trap the world has fallen into and consider Easter as now being over. When we go shopping this week one sure sign of this will be the absence of Easter eggs - except at much reduced prices - and the growing presence of summer clothes and products. The world moves inexorably on, moved by the prevailing need to make money and turn a profit.

But not only has Easter not come to an end but we will be celebrating it for the remainder of the Easter Season, and every Sunday of the liturgical year. For every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection, for Christ is with us as His people.

In fact the resurrection stands at the very heart of our faith and we live our lives by it. To quote Pope John Paul II:

"We do not pretend that life is all beauty. We are aware of darkness and sin, of poverty and pain. But we know Jesus has conquered sin and passed through his own pain to the glory of the Resurrection. And we live in the light of his Paschal Mystery - the mystery of his Death and Resurrection". We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song".

Every Christian then is a living witness to the resurrection, for it is the Risen Christ, who, through the power of the Holy Spirit, gives new life to His people.



And talking of new life. I am sure we all need to hear some uplifting news in these difficult times and the news doesn't get much better than to hear of a new birth. Grandma Dreena - formerly known as just Dreena - is delighted to welcome the arrival of her grandson Arthur Piers. He was born to Helen and Piers on Wednesday 7 April weighing 7lb 12oz. This qualifies him as an Easter baby.

Congratulations all round from everyone at St James. In the words of St James himself:

"Every good and perfect gift is from above." James 1:17 Amen to that!

God bless you all, and especially Arthur, Helen, Piers and Grandma Dreena.

God bless,

Mark

New home

Just a grief update regarding my pending retirement. Things are progressing slowly as we go through the laborious and challenging task of sorting things out in the Vicarage ready for our move to the new house in Cockett. Hardest for me is that I won't be taking my piano and about two thirds of my books. But its a small price to pay for a house we can finally call our own, one which we have chosen rather than been given as part of the 'job'.



In some ways it's not a good time to move as buying new furniture is impossible until the shops open and not having 'live' church means that in some ways it feels that we have already gone! But please be assured that in the midst of the chaos which is packing, sorting, arranging work to be done on the new house and all the other stuff that goes with moving house, I continue to work on podcasts, newsletters, funerals etc. to help you maintain your walk with Jesus.

This Newsletter is available on the Parish website: www.stjamesswansea.org.uk

St. James Sunday Services on YouTube are available here:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoNVEa6r8mEr_KnOkSv6qQA/

The vicar's blog can be found here: sonofzebedee.blogspot.com

Hymns and their stories

This week we begin a series on the stories behind some well known hymns. As it is Easter we start with one of the best known of them: "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today."

For about 300 years this hymn and its variants have been sung in our churches to commemorate and celebrate that Sunday morning about 2,000 years ago when Jesus Christ walked out of his tomb, demonstrating that he had forever triumphed over sin and death for both himself and all his people.

The earliest forms of the hymn can be traced back to a Latin text from the 14th century. In 1708 the four Latin stanzas were translated into English and published by J. Walsh in *Lyra Davidica* under the title "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today." A few decades later, in 1739, a modified version was published by John and Charles Wesley in *Hymns and Sacred Poems* under the title "Hymn for Easter Day." It is this version, later shortened and supplemented with the "Alleluia" refrain, that has become the hymn that remains so popular today.

There are 11 stanzas in all, published by the Wesleys, and I recommend reading through each one thoughtfully, especially the ones that we no longer sing. They are rich with biblical allusion and the wonderful implications of Easter.

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| 1. Christ the Lord is ris'n to-day,
Sons of Men and Angels say!
Raise your Joys and Triumphs high,
Sing ye Heav'ns, and Earth reply. | 7. Ris'n with Him, we upward move,
Still we seek the Things above,
Still pursue, and kiss the Son,
Seated on his Father's Throne; |
| 2. Love's Redeeming Work is done,
Fought the Fight, the Battle won,
Lo! our Sun's Eclipse is o'er,
Lo! He sets in Blood no more. | 8. Scarce on Earth a Thought
bestow,
Dead to all we leave below,
Heav'n our Aim, and lov'd Abode,
Hid our Life with Christ in God! |
| 3. Vain the Stone, the Watch, the Seal;
Christ hath burst the Gates of Hell!
Death in vain forbids his Rise:
Christ hath open'd Paradise! | 9. Hid; 'till Christ our Life appear,
Glorious in his Members here:
Join'd to Him, we then shall shine
All Immortal, all Divine! |
| 4. Lives again our glorious King,
Where, O Death, is now thy Sting?
Once He died our Souls to save,
Where thy Victory, O Grave? | 10. Hail the Lord of Earth and
Heav'n!
Praise to Thee by both be giv'n:
Thee we greet Triumphant now;
Hail the Resurrection Thou! |
| 5. Soar we now, where Christ has
led,
Following our Exalted Head,
Made like Him, like Him we rise:
Ours the Cross; the Grave; the
Skies. | 11. King of Glory, Soul of Bliss,
Everlasting Life is This,
Thee to know, thy Pow'r to prove,
Thus to sing, and thus to love! |
| 6. What tho' once we perish'd All,
Partners of our Parent's Fall,
Second Life we All receive,
In our Heav'nly Adam live. | |



"The resurrection of Jesus changes the face of death for all His people. Death is no longer a prison, but a passage into God's presence. Easter says you can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there."

(Clarence W. Hall)

The Second Sunday of Easter

Collect

Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings

Acts 4: 32 - 35;
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1 - 2:2;
John 20:19 - end

Words

On Tesco's tiramisu dessert (printed on bottom of the box): "Do not turn upside down."

On Marks & Spencer's bread pudding: "Product will be hot after heating". No kidding.

On the packaging for a Rowenta iron: "Do not iron clothes on body." Does that mean someone must have tried it!?

On Nytol sleep aid: Warning: "May cause drowsiness!" Isn't that the point?

On a Korean kitchen knife: "Warning: keep out of children."

On Sainsbury's peanuts: Warning: contains nuts.

On a Swedish chainsaw: "Do not attempt to stop chain with your hands."

Contact information

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