



On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb.

JOHN 20:1



Bit by Bit

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Looking for proof of the resurrection is like looking for proof of love. Sometimes, we realize only gradually—bit by bit—that we are loved. John's Gospel abounds with images of light and darkness. So when this Sunday's Easter Gospel recounts Mary of Magdala going to the tomb early in the morning while it was still dark, the gospel is not simply marking the time of day. It's noting that what was taking place was before they believed in the resurrection, when they were still in the dark. All sorts of hints about the resurrection begin to occur: Mary sees the stone rolled away, Peter and the other disciple go to the tomb and find the burial cloths. They see the cloth that had covered his head rolled up and set aside. No apparition of Jesus, no men in white garments, no angels. Only hints that with the resurrection of Jesus,

God has made all life new and destined for resurrection.

What, then, might one do who is plagued by doubts? Look for hints of resurrection, of life coming about where one expects only death (as if to symbolically enter the tomb). What types of hints? Going for counseling, as frightening as that may be, and finding peace. Talking through a problem in marriage. Finding that empty-nesting gives way to new life. Discovering retirement's gifts. Making a dreaded move to a new city or school. The resurrection of Jesus means God makes all life new. We only need to see it and discover that, bit by bit, it leads to faith. ●

Reflect

What are the hints of resurrection surrounding me? Have I missed any?



St. Joseph's Church

was consecrated on the 29th of January 1928.
It is the oldest standing Roman Catholic Church on the island.
Address: 45 Somerset Road, Sandys MA 03, Bermuda
or
P.O. Box MA 05, Mangrove Bay, Sandys MABX, Bermuda.
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Email: stjosephbermuda@gmail.com

Fr. Joseph Morley: Acting Pastor/Vicar General
Cell: 705-0236



Tentative Mass Schedule Saturday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. Sunday morning at 8:45 a.m.

Baptism	By appointment: one month in advance
Weddings	By date: one year in advance (approx.)
Sacrament of Reconciliation	By appointment
Filipino Mass –	TBA
Kids & Youth Ministry- 29 th April	Sunday 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.
Children's Mass	TBA
Pastoral & Finance Council	TBA
Monthly Coffee Social	TBA
Second Collection	Second Weekend of the Month

DIOCESE OF HAMILTON IN BERMUDA
Most Rev. Bishop, Wiesław (Wes) Śpiewak
www.romancatholicbermuda.bm

Parish Team Leaders	
Mrs. Elizabeth Card – Pastoral Council Chairperson	Mrs. Annette Barclay St. Vincent de Paul Society Representative
Walette Cross Stewardship Representative	Natalia Walker Religious Education Kids & Youth Ministry
Mrs. Mary Harvey - Parish Administrator & Finance Committee Team Leader	Mrs. Jane Farge Music Ministry



Entrance:	Christ, Is Alive	#418
Offertory:	Alleluia! Alleluia! Let the Holy Anthem Rise	#411
Communion:	I Received the Living God	#786
Recessional:	Jesus Christ Is Risen Today	#401

Leader of Song: Aidan Stones



The St. Joseph's Parish family takes this opportunity to thank you for coming to worship with us today. May the loving Lord always be with you, and with your families.



Sunday – 27th April 2025

Proclaimer of God's Word
Opening/Closing of the Church
Eucharistic Minister
Collection Counters
Altar Servers
Music

Elizabeth Card
Kathie Ausenda
Jane Bermingham
Joanne Smith
Seamus Stones
Jane Farge

Prayers: Please keep our **sick and shut-ins** in your prayers, especially Ilene Bremar, Eleanor Correia, Evelyn Pinlac, and Mary Maybury.

EASTER MASS INTENTIONS (Flower Offering)

David & Maria DeLurdes; Antonio Froias & Maria DeJesus; David Tavares, Hannah Jimenez; Jose Miguel Arruda; Lucy & John Moffat; Susan & James Moffat; Peter & Mary Hogg; Suzanne Tann; Nellie & Ron Jenkins; John, Louise & Richard Card; Arthur, Marie & Paul Card; Ernest, Alice, Peter & Ernie Whitney; Fr. Carl Fritz, Fr. Joseph Bogusz, Fr. David Doran; Tom Commerford Bishop Brian Hennessy; Marja Warakois & Lempe Escola; Bobbe Cauchi; Anthony & Rita Faries, Manuel, Joseph, Frank, George and James Faries, Rita Faries Smith, Tony & Solange Faries, Mary Soares, Mary Pedro and Charles Spanswick; Kenneth & Beryl Young; James & Violet Stones; Robert Sinclair; Erna Young; David Young. And those loved ones not mentioned.

ATTENDANCE & COLLECTION

MASS	Attendees	Collection
Station of the Cross – 11 th April	7	-
Saturday, 12 th April - 4:00 p.m. (Reg)	6	60
(Main)		45
Flowers		100
Sunday, 13 th April - 8:45 a.m. (Reg)	47	339
(Main)		181
Flowers		40
TOTAL:	60	\$765

Thank you for your kindness and generosity, it is appreciated. Banking information: St. Joseph's Parish – Account Number: 20006060757062100 – Bank NT Butterfield

Our Afternoon Heritage Tea – Sunday, 18th May – St. James Church Hall – 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.: At the time of printing the bulletin there were only nine (9) tickets left!! 😊

After the tea, two dates are set aside for the **Evening of Classical Music** that is being arranged by Jane (Farge). The 15th and 22nd June - 5:00 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church. This is a duplicate programme, so if you can't make one date, you could attend the other one. The proceeds from the two events will be divided between PALS and St. Josephs. Tickets - \$25 adults; seniors, students, and children \$10.
Featuring: Jane Farge (classical contralto singer)

Andrea Hodson Patton (Piano)
Steve Crawford (guitar) and
Johanna Pino Gonzalez (violin and viola).

THANK YOU to Dennis DeMello, and his assistant, who have done a remarkable job of cleaning and colouring the carpet.

The **“Kids & Youth Ministry”** will resume on Sunday, 27th April: 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

PASTOR's EASTER LETTER

Dear Parishioners,

One of my favourite scripture readings is taken from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians 2:6-11 and I have chosen this one for my funeral Mass as the second reading:

"Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name, which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Happy Easter and live fully and intentionally the Easter season so that we can be an Easter people beyond the season and in fact, year-round since each Sunday reminds us especially of this reality that we worship our Risen Lord always.

Amen & Alleluia.

Fr. Joe, Vicar General
Acting Pastor

WORDS OF LIFE: 20th April

"Like us, Christ entered the world through the womb of a woman. He willingly experienced the fullness of human suffering. He breathed his last on the Cross at Calvary in order that He might save us. Therefore, 'God is the foundation of hope: not any god, but the God who has a human face and who has loved us to the end' (*Spe salvi* 31)."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
"Respect Life Reflection: Christ Our Hope in Every Season of Life"
(citing Pope Benedict XVI, Spe salvi © 2007, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved.)

Following our Diocesan tradition, there will be an Easter Mass celebrated for our deceased parishioners in Holy Calvary Cemetery on Saturday, 26th of April at 11:00 a.m.

BISHOP's CORNER

My Dear Fellow-Catholics,

When I was thinking about my Easter greetings in the context of our troubled world, the prayer of St. Thomas More, a man for all seasons, came to my mind. Pope Francis once revealed that this prayer is one of his favourites. It is actually one of my favourite prayers too.

Grant me, O Lord, good digestion, and also something to digest.
Grant me a healthy body, and the necessary good humor to maintain it.
Grant me a simple soul that knows to treasure all that is good
and that doesn't frighten easily at the sight of evil,
but rather finds the means to put things back in their place.
Give me a soul that knows not boredom, grumblings, sighs and laments,
nor excess of stress, because of that obstructing thing called "I."
Grant me, O Lord, a sense of good humor.
Allow me the grace to be able to take a joke to discover in life a bit of joy,
and to be able to share it with others.

Christ is risen, Alleluia.
He is risen indeed, Alleluia.
Happy and blessed Easter to you!

Bishop Wes



Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord - Stewardship Light

"...He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him." (Acts 10:38)

We can't give what we don't have. Open your heart to receive God's love, mercy and forgiveness. Then, show the same to others. As God's adopted sons and daughters, we are made in His image and likeness. As Pope Benedict XVI says, "we are made for greatness." Let our lives in **Stewardship** reflect His light to others. Pray to live a grateful and generous life. Strive for greatness! We are made for more! We are made for God!

Our Sunday Readings

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES
10:34a,37-43
PSALM 118:1-2,16-17,22-23
COLOSSIANS 3:1-4 or
1 CORINTHIANS 5:6b-8
JOHN 20:1-9

He is Risen

ACTS 10:34a,37-43

Reading closely

1. What are the main aspects of Jesus' story that Peter highlights?
2. If people were hearing about Jesus for the first time, what questions might they have asked?
3. How might people have reacted differently to the various aspects of Jesus' story?

Living the word

4. What parts of Jesus' story would you highlight?
5. What part of Jesus' story is the most important to you at this moment in your life?

THE FIRST READING

In the home of Cornelius

Peter is speaking to the friends and family members of Cornelius. Though a Gentile, Cornelius is *devout and God-fearing* (10:2). Cornelius had a vision in which God told him to invite Peter into his home. Peter, however, is a devout Jew who would not have entered the home of a Gentile had he not been instructed to do so by the holy Spirit.

For everyone

Peter and the other apostles didn't know that God planned to offer salvation to everyone. They were Jewish just as Jesus was Jewish, and so for generations their faith and practices had set them apart from non-Jews.

Jesus' followers thus struggled to believe that through their Jewish messiah God was offering salvation to everyone, both Jews and Gentiles. The meeting between Peter and Cornelius becomes the pivotal moment in which God's salvation is formally extended to the Gentiles.

A pivotal speech

Peter's words in this passage are his last major speech in the Acts of the Apostles. This passage is especially suitable for Easter Sunday because it captures the main elements of Christian belief and emphasizes that God offers salvation to all.

Peter's speech also transitions us from hearing about Jesus' ministry and death to hearing how his followers spread the gospel from Jerusalem to the wider world.

JOHN 20:1-9

Reading closely

1. Why do you think Mary goes to Jesus' tomb?
2. Why is it noteworthy that these events occur *while it is still dark*?
3. What all might Mary be thinking and feeling as she runs to tell the male disciples?
4. Why do you think Peter and the other disciple rush to the tomb themselves?
5. What exactly do the two male disciples find?
6. What are all the explanations Peter might have for what he sees in the tomb?
7. What might the three disciples say to each other after they see that Jesus' tomb is empty?
8. Do you think either of the two men tell anyone about what happened?

Living the word

9. What are some reasons people find it difficult to believe that Jesus rose from the dead?
10. Why do you think some people find it easier than other people to believe in Jesus?
11. How do you think you would have reacted if you had been at the empty tomb?

THE GOSPEL READING

Stories of the empty tomb

The author of this Gospel reshaped earlier versions of this story. He notes that a woman is the first to find the tomb empty, but he doesn't explain why she's there. She can't have come to anoint Jesus' body because in this Gospel Jesus' body was already anointed (19:39-40). Also, Mary tells the disciples that "we don't know where they put him," implying she had been joined by other women.

Two male witnesses

According to Jewish law at least two witnesses were required for legal testimony to be valid (Deuteronomy 19:15). These witnesses had to be men, however, which meant that the testimony of Jesus' female disciples would have been ignored. This Gospel-writer is thus careful to show that two men verify Mary's report. Ironically, the fact that all four Gospels note the embarrassing detail that women were the first to find the tomb empty strengthens the story's credibility.

The burial cloths

The details about Jesus' burial cloths serve two purposes. First, they show that Jesus' body was not stolen by grave-robbers. Thieves would not take the time to tidy up.

Second, and more importantly, this Gospel-writer again highlights Jesus' power over life and death. In John 11, after bringing his friend Lazarus back to life, Jesus orders people to unwrap the burial cloths that bind Lazarus (v.44). Jesus himself needs no such help. In John 10:17-18 Jesus declares that he freely gives his life and takes up his life again. Jesus doesn't need anyone to help him out of burial cloths or out of the tomb.

The disciple whom Jesus loved

Although scholars have speculated about the identity of *the disciple whom Jesus loved*, also called the Beloved Disciple, we will never know who he was. He has deliberately concealed his identity. He might be someone who founded or helped form the community from which this Gospel emerged.

This disciple is first mentioned in John 13:23, right before the story of Jesus' Passion and death. His appearances in the narrative enhance the story's credibility while his anonymity keeps the focus on Jesus. This disciple's anonymity also enables him to appear as a model of faith for later generations: he believes without seeing the risen Jesus.

PRAYER

Opening Prayer for Easter Sunday

O God, who on this day
through your only begotten Son
have conquered death
and unlocked for us the path to eternity,
grant, we pray,
that we who keep the solemnity of the Lord's
resurrection may,
through the renewal brought by your Spirit,
rise up in the light of life.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Dear Padre,

I was baptized as a baby, but I never really went to church. Lately, I've been attending Mass. Are there steps I should take before I receive Communion?

The first step is to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation (confession). This is a wonderful opportunity to be officially welcomed back into full practice with the Church. After such a long absence, it is important to examine your conscience and celebrate the forgiveness of the Lord before you receive holy Communion.

I would also recommend that you “beef up” your understanding of what it means to be a practicing Catholic. You might do this by participating in your parish’s process for the Christian Initiation of Adults (called OCIA or sometimes RCIA). The Liguori Publications program, *Journey of Faith*, is one resource used by many parish communities. Another possibility is to use some of the resources offered online, such as Bishop Robert Barron’s *Word on Fire* website, which has a fine reputation.

I am happy you have responded to the stirrings of the Holy Spirit within you and answered the call to deepen your spiritual practice and journey. The Church needs you. The people of God welcome you. You are beloved among us, and your response in faith is a powerful witness, a reminder to those who may be tempted to take for granted the gift of faith. Thank you. ●



A candidate and his sponsor sit for a photo after an Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) class. LOS ANGELES TIMES VIA GETTY IMAGES

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
April 21	April 22	April 23	April 24	April 25	April 26	April 27
<i>Octave of Easter</i>	<i>Octave of Easter</i>	<i>Octave of Easter</i>	<i>Octave of Easter</i>	<i>Octave of Easter</i>	<i>Octave of Easter</i>	<i>Second Sunday of Easter /</i>
Acts 2:14, 22-33	Acts 2:36-41	Acts 3:1-10	Acts 3:11-26	Acts 4:1-12	Acts 4:13-21	<i>Sunday of</i>
Mt 28:8-15	Jn 20:11-18	Lk 24:13-35	Lk 24:35-48	Jn 21:1-14	Mk 16:9-15	<i>Divine Mercy</i>
						Acts 5:12-16
						Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19
						Jn 20:19-31

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to **DearPadre.org** to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

We welcome the Easter message: “Peace be with you!” Brothers and sisters, let us allow the peace of Christ to enter our lives, our homes, our countries!... Let there be a decision for peace.... Please, please, let us not get used to war!... May the leaders of nations hear people’s plea for peace.

URBI ET ORBI MESSAGE, ROME, APRIL 17, 2022