



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. MICHAEL'S PARISH

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Weekend Masses: Vigil: 5:00pm, Sunday: 10:15am

Baptisms: by appointment 3 weeks in advance

Weddings: by appointment 6 months in advance

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Mass Schedule & Intentions

We welcome our parishioners and visitors who have come to St. Michael's to worship this weekend.
May you be blessed by your presence here today.

MINISTRIES ...

APRIL 19/20th - EASTER VIGIL & THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

8:00PM Lector: Kathy Anderson, K. Marsh EM: Peter Marsh
10:15AM Lector: Cherry Ramdass EM: J. Lee, M. Almeida
Collection: Karen Marsh

APRIL 26/27th - SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER / DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

8:00PM Lector: Karen Marsh EM: Susan Peniston
10:15AM Lector: Cherry Ramdass EM: Christine DaCosta
Collection: Karen Marsh

MASS INTENTIONS ...

APRIL 19/20th - EASTER SUNDAY - THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

8:00PM Easter Vigil 10:15 AM
THOSE REMEMBERED IN OUR EASTER FLOWER MEMORIALS

APRIL 26/27th - SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER / DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

5:00PM Mary & Benjamin Botelho++
Adelina & Jose DeFrias ++
10:15AM For our First Communion Candidates & their Families



Stewardship

sharing the gifts we have been given

APRIL 12/13th COLLECTION: \$885.00

THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO DONATED TO
THE EASTER FLOWER MEMORIALS

ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE
to St. Michael's Church's: BNTB Account # 2000 6060 081824 100.
YOUR Weekly, monthly or quarterly transaction is appreciated.

WHEN MAKING YOUR ONLINE TRANSACTION, BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND "COLLECTION" AS YOUR MEMO ON YOUR BANKING TRANSACTION.

Bishops 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. Actually it is one of my favourite prayers too.

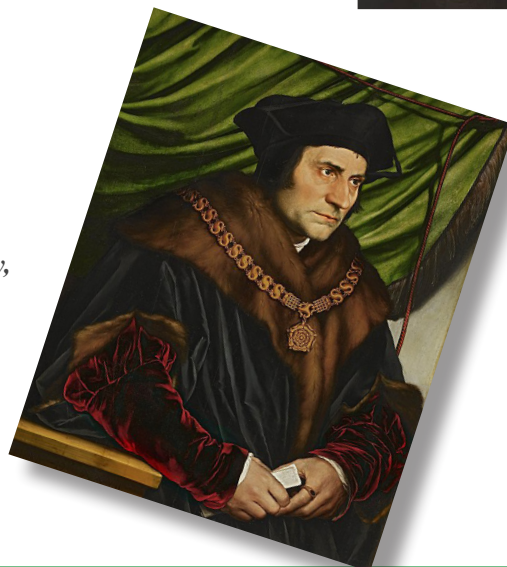
*Grant me, O Lord, good digestion, and also something to digest.
Grant me a healthy body, and the necessary good humor to maintain it.
Grant me a simple soul that knows to treasure all that is good
and that doesn't frighten easily at the sight of evil,
but rather finds the means to put things back in 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



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

Easter Flower Memorials . . .

João Pereira Almeida
Maria Jesus Almeida
Laetitia and Walter Anderson
The Deceased Members of the
Barnard & Cusack Families
Matt Becker
Bergen Family
Francisco Bizarro
Deolinda Bizarro
José Bizarro
Mary & Benjamin Botelho
Maxine Briere
Serge Briere
Bernie Cabrera
Mary & Joseph Lewis Correia
Martin Kevin Cusack
Crainey Family
Brucie Dalida
Eugenio Dalida Sr.
Edison Dalida Sr.
Eduarda Dalida
Edison Dalida Jr.
Gabaldon Dalida
Leontina Dalida
Leonidas Dalida
Rhodora Dalida

Romulo Dalida
Adelina & José De Frias
Francelina & Antonio De Frias
Sandra & Norberto De Frias
Angelina DeSilva
Mary Dowling
Winnifred & Jack Hedges
Robert Hedges
Catalina Hernandez
Deceased Members of the
Johnson Family
Ella & Henry Johnson
Florence Johnson
LaVerne Lau
Manuel Leitao
Amelia & Anthony Marirea
Aimee & Bertram Marsh
Brian Morris
Jennifer Lynn Pedro
Dorothy & Frank Peniston
Diana & Patrick Mahoney
Annette Ramdass-Jones
Dawn Ramdass
Joseph Ramdass

Lloyd Ramdass
Michelle Ramdass
Theresa Ramdass
Paddy Simons
Betty & Frank Slater
David E. Soares
Mary R. Soares
Laura Sousa
Charles Spanswick
Fernanda Vicente
Orgeto Vicente
Tita Webb
For the Souls In Purgatory

OUR APOLOGIES FOR ANY NAMES OMITTED
DUE TO PRINT DEADLINES

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

Pastor's Message . . .

Dear Parishioners,

One of my favorite 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, Pastor of St. Michael's



DELICIOUS DINNER & BINGO

ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH is holding a Dinner & Bingo on Saturday, April 26. at 7:30pm **Tickets: \$30 & \$15 (children up to 12 years)**

Tickets can be purchased from:

Pat Rodrigues: 524-1026 | Anna Daniels: 236-2438
and St. Anthony's Parish Council members

Happiness is yelling 'BINGO' – experience the fun with family and friends!!

AFTERNOON HERITAGE TEA

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH in Somerset will be hosting an Afternoon Heritage Tea on Sunday, 18th May, 2025, from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m., at the St. James Church Hall in Somerset – Tea, Entertainment, Raffles, Silent Auction:

Tickets: \$45 can be obtained by contacting **Liz Card, at 234-0872 or Email: lizatstjosephs@gmail.com**



Congratulations . . .

Our Congratulations and warm welcome to our RCIA Candidates who became members of our Roman Catholic community and St. Michael's parish this Easter Vigil.

DIANA MING TUZO & WILLIAM BAILEY

Our congratulations also to **THEODORE BAILEY** on his first Penance and First Holy Communion.

May God continue to bless you and your families in your faith journey today and always.

*"This is My Body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of Me."
Luke 22:19*

What is Happening in Our Diocese?

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 11:00am.

St. MICHAEL'S

- FIRST HOLY COMMUNION
 - Felt Presentation** - Sunday, April 27th, at the 10:15 Mass
 - First Penance** - Saturday, June 14th, at 2pm
 - First Holy Communion** - Sunday, June 22nd, time to be determined (after 12pm)

St. THERESA'S

- Daily Mass is celebrated at 7:30am.
12:10 Mass resume on Wednesday, 23rd of April and will be celebrated from Wednesday to Friday.

St. ANTHONY'S

- Daily Mass is celebrated Tuesday-Friday at 8:30am

St. PATRICK'S

- Daily Mass is celebrated at 8:00am
- The Rosary is recited every, WEDNESDAY at 10:00am
- A 6pm PORTUGUESE Mass followed by the Rosary each Wednesday at 7:00pm
- A mass in Tagalog takes place on, THE SECOND FRIDAY of the month at 7:00pm.

St. JOSEPH'S

- A Filipino mass is celebrated every, THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH at 11:00am

STELLA MARIS

- A Filipino mass is celebrated on the LAST Wednesday OF THE MONTH at 7:00pm

ST. THERESA'S GIFT SHOP is open, TUESDAYS and SATURDAYS 10:00am-2:00pm

ST. MICHAEL'S UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 4TH

Our next Coffee Social will be held on Sunday, May 4th following the 10:15 am Mass. Please mark your calendars now to attend the final Social prior to the summer break.

JUNE 14TH

Our first Dinner Bingo in many years will be held on Saturday, June 14th following the 5pm Mass. We're keeping it simple and making it a Pizza Dinner. Who doesn't like Pizza?

Tickets will be \$20 each and include ONE (1) Bingo Card, additional cards will be \$5 each. Volunteers to help are encouraged, please email Stmichaelsbermuda@gmail.com.

If you can donate a prize, THANK YOU in advance. Included will be a Kids Bingo, a Father's Bingo and much more as we will celebrate our Father's Day. MORE INFO TO COME. Tickets sales start the first week of May.

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.