



**His cross stands empty in a world grown silent, through hours of anguish and of painful dread;
in stillness, earth awaits the resurrection, while Christ goes down to summon out the dead.**

**He summons Adam and his generation, brings light where darkness only ever seemed;
He frees and claims his own so long held captive, who with the living faithful are redeemed.**

[Office Hymn for Holy Saturday – Tune : Abide with me]

Parishes of St Andrew's Cathedral and Our Lady of Good Counsel

Dear Friends and Parishioners,

As I write this to you, it is Holy Saturday morning and we have entered the second day of the Sacred Triduum of the Lord's Passover. The liturgical directives say this is a day when "the Church waits at the Lord's tomb in prayer and fasting, meditating on his passion and death and on his descent into hell, and awaiting his resurrection."

Outside, it is like no other Holy Saturday I've known. The town is deserted and silent, as people stay indoors to stay safe, protect the NHS and save lives. In our keeping of the Triduum feast, we have at the forefront of our minds those who are suffering from COVID 19 and those caring for the sick. As we do what we can to help and support others, our thoughts and prayers this Triduum are especially with those who - in so many walks of life - are making such great sacrifices to help ease and alleviate the situation we are in.

I celebrated the Mass of the Lord's Supper and the Liturgy of Good Friday alone in the Cathedral. But I certainly didn't feel I was in isolation; I carried you all in my heart and in my prayers, knowing that you too were keeping the feast, each in your own way in your own homes. I think I will appreciate and delight all the more in our gatherings for the liturgy and for social and outreach events when we are back together in our churches, celebrating as God's family.

I shall be celebrating the Easter Vigil tonight at 8pm at Lawside Convent and it will be livestreamed through the diocesan website www.dunkelddiocese.co.uk

The Bishop will livestream Easter Day Mass tomorrow at 10.30am.

I will celebrate the Evening Prayer of the Church for Easter Day at 4pm in the Cathedral just as we would usually do, by the light of the Easter Candle. This prayer formally completes the Easter Triduum. I'm attaching a Word document with the text of Evening Prayer for Easter Day if you'd like to share in it at home.

With my love,

Our Prayers for:

those who have died recently: Joan Paterson, Jenny Robertson, Elizabeth Chalmers, Mike Branney, Margaret Leighton;

those whose anniversaries fall at this time: George Donald, Mary McDade, William Noonan, Bernard Moolding, Arthur Toshney, Anna Kelly, Joe Dailly, Samir Eljamel, Canon Hugh Sreenan, Mary Dailly, Seth Schor.

all those who are sick: Sharon McNally, Moira Wilkie, Natalia Lucka, Benedict Connery, Benedict Stephens, Gillian Steedman, Steven Kennedy, Cheryl Marshal, Sharon Davison, Aubrey McMullan, Sonya Rostan, Lily Jane Douglas, Alexander McNeil, Bridie Mossey, Sheila McCallum, Marie Manunga, Estelle Fox, Allison Matthew;

Your Offertory Contributions: Thank you so much to those of you who have taken on a "standing order" and those who have sent in cheques, and those who have called or emailed to let me know you are saving up your offertory envelopes and contributions. Your generosity to the church is so much appreciated.

Kati Smith writes: SCIAF WEE BOXES:

Dear fellow Parishioners,

Happy Easter! I'm missing you all and the lovely Triduum Liturgy and music we usually share this time of year. Remember, we usually bring in our SCIAF wee boxes at this time. You can send your gift by cheque, using the bottom of the wee box, or on line on the SCIAF website. The latter is very easy. I've just done it and you can include the name of your parish so that we'll know how much we collected as a parish. Don't delay it too long, remember the government is doubling the donations sent in before 20th May. Have a lovely Easter, however you spend it, safely at home! God bless, love, Kati Smith. Thank you.

Keeping Easter Sunday holy with a Home Liturgy

Take time to be still and know that our Lord is with you.

A prayer to begin

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.

Read the Scriptures of the day

Acts of the Apostles 10:34.37-43: *Peter's address to Cornelius and his household.*

Psalm 117: *This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.*

Paul to the Colossians 3:1-4: *You must look for the things that are in heaven.*

The Gospel of John 20:1 – 9: *He saw and he believed.*

Reflection:

All through this Holy Week and Triduum we have walked with Jesus in his passion journey, each in our own way: from his entry to Jerusalem, to the Upper Room of Thursday, the passion of John on Friday and the veneration of our crucifix at home, to the waiting of Holy Saturday and its expectant joy for the risen Lord.

Today we consolidate the whole passion event with the biblical account of the empty tomb: the discovery by faithful Mary of Magdala who comes to visit her Lord *very early, when it is still dark*; then on the scene comes Peter, along with John, *the beloved*. They run, and young John reaches the tomb first. Peter arrives, *breathless* and as leader of the Church enters the tomb first: John the beloved follows, sees and believes. Like the Emmaus disciples in their eye-opening-moment, the empty tomb is enough for this beloved disciple to draw together the meaning of everything he has experienced, especially the meaning of the passion journey and the crucifixion event. The conclusion this young apostle draws at the empty tomb will later enable him to pen a unique Gospel account of Christ the Word made flesh, Christ the Divine Son sent by the living Father, the Good Shepherd, the one who comes that we might have life and have it in abundance, the one who declares himself to be the Resurrection and the Life. It is him we come to greet with *Alleluias* today and each day of the Easter season.

Intercessions:

Take time to voice your own personal prayers and intentions and then sum up with the Lord's Prayer.

A prayer to close your prayer time:

This is the day Lord God, which you have made!

Raising Christ from the dead and raising us with him, you have fashioned for yourself a new people, washed in the flood of Baptism, sealed with the gift of the Spirit, invited to the banquet of the Lamb!

In the beauty of this Easter Day, set our minds on the new life to which you have called us; Place on our lips the words of witness for which you have anointed us; and ready our hearts to celebrate the fifty day festival with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Amen.