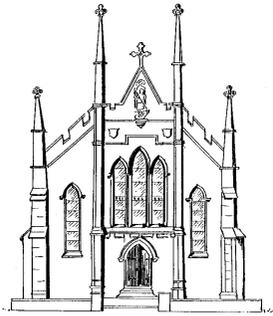


DAILY PRAYERS THE EASTER OCTAVE



**HOLY TRINITY & ST GEORGE
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
Serving Kendal and Sedbergh

www.kendalcatholicchurch.uk

Easter Sunday

Collect:

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, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Today's Gospel reading: John 20:1-9

Today's prayer: The Stations of the Resurrection

In the summer of 1988, Fr Sabino Palumbieri, at the Salesian University in Rome, proposed the creation of a new set of stations, Via Lucis, (The Way of Light) centred upon the Resurrection and the events following from it, to emphasise the positive, hopeful aspect of the Christian story which, though not absent from the Stations of the Cross, is obscured by their emphasis upon suffering. The text we will use are taken from the website of the Archdiocese of Detroit.

First Station - Jesus Rises from the Dead

We adore You, O Christ and we praise You. Because by the Wood of the Cross and the Light of the Resurrection, You have redeemed the world! Alleluia!

Scripture: "The angel of the Lord said to the women: 'Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for He has been raised just as He said.'" (Mt 28: 5b-6a).

Reflection: On the first day of the week, at the dawning of the new creation, Jesus arose from the dead. No one saw the event, yet like the apostles, we are called to be witnesses of this central faith event. The light and power of Christ's death and resurrection has become the pattern for our living. May we recognise Christ's dying and rising in our midst.

Prayer: This is the day, Lord God, that You have made! Raising Christ from the dead, and raising us with Christ, You have fashioned for Yourself a new people. As we hear the word that brings salvation, make our hearts burn within us. Through the presence of every friend and stranger, reveal to us the face of the One who had first to suffer, but who has entered now into glory, Jesus Christ, our Passover and our Peace, living and reigning with You, forever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

That Easter morn, at break of day,
The faithful women went their way
To seek the tomb where Jesus lay, Alleluia!

Monday of the Easter Octave

Collect:

O God, who give constant increase to Your Church by new offspring, grant that Your servants may hold fast in their lives to the Sacrament they have received in faith. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Today's Gospel reading: Matthew 28:8-15

The Second Station - The Disciples Discover the Empty Tomb

We adore You, O Christ and we praise You. Because by the Wood of the Cross and the Light of the Resurrection, You have redeemed the world!
Alleluia!

Scripture: "Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed" (Jn 20: 8).

Reflection: The empty tomb was not a proof of the resurrection, but rather a silent witness of the greatest event of our faith. Seeing the empty tomb, the disciples were motivated to seek the Risen Lord at work in their midst. They saw and believed in the continuing presence of the Lord of love. All the empty and lonely places of human life are precisely where the Lord wishes to work and be revealed.

Prayer: God our Father, creator of all, today is the day of overwhelming joy. The Lord appeared to those who had begun to lose hope and opened their eyes to what the Scriptures foretold: that first He must die and then rise. May the Risen Lord breathe on our minds and open our eyes that we may know Him in the breaking of bread and follow Him in His risen life. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
The dear belov'd apostle John
Could faster than Saint Peter run,
Arriving first before the tomb. Alleluia!

Tuesday of the Easter Octave

Collect:

O God, who have bestowed on us paschal remedies, endow Your people with heavenly gifts, so that, possessed of perfect freedom, they may rejoice in heaven over what gladdens them now on earth. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, our Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Today's Gospel reading: John 20:11-18

The Third Station - The Risen Lord Appears to Mary Magdalen, Apostle to the Apostles

We adore You, O Christ and we praise You. Because by the Wood of the Cross and the Light of the Resurrection, You have redeemed the world! Alleluia!

Scripture: "She turned around and saw Jesus there, but did not know it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?' She thought He was the gardener and said to Him, 'Sir, if you carried Him away, tell me where you laid Him, and I will take Him.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni,' which means Teacher. Jesus said to her, 'Stop holding on to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to My brothers and tell them, 'I am going to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.' Mary of Magdalen went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord,' and what He told her" (Jn 20: 14b-18).

Reflection: In St John's gospel, Mary Magdalen is given the mission to carry the good news of the resurrection to the apostles and the disciples. Mary had been in the company of Jesus and His followers and is given the privilege to announce the hope of new life. She is known over the centuries as "the apostle to the Apostles." Jesus called her by name, gave her the eyes of faith, and called her to give a unique personal witness to her friends in the faith community.

Prayer: God our Father, You will that all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of Your truth. Send workers into Your great harvest that the Gospel may be preached to every creature. May Your people, gathered by the word of life and strengthened by the power of the sacraments, advance in the way of salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Not Magdalen, not Salome,
Nor James' own mother then delay
Embalming Jesus' corpse that day. Alleluia!

Wednesday of the Easter Octave

Collect:

O God, who gladden us year by year with the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection, graciously grant, that by celebrating these present festivities, we may merit through them to reach eternal joys. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Today's Gospel reading: Luke 24:13-35

The Fourth Station - The Risen Lord Appears on the Road to Emmaus

We adore You, O Christ and we praise You. Because by the Wood of the Cross and the Light of the Resurrection, You have redeemed the world! Alleluia!

Scripture: "...It happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus Himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him... And He said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into His glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He interpreted to them what referred to Him in all the scriptures" (Lk 24: 15, 25-27).

Reflection: The Emmaus road is the story of the Christian life. These disciples were walking away from Jerusalem and the apostolic faith community in defeat and dejection. They had lost hope. We too, have moments of despair and desolation. The Risen Lord Jesus accompanies us along the road, even when we are moving in the wrong direction. Only the Lord can "break open" the Word in order to help us understand the stories of our lives, especially suffering, and read them in harmony with the pattern of the Scriptures. Only the Lord can rekindle our energy and our resolve to devote ourselves to what is most important in life.

Prayer: Lord God, as disciples on our pilgrimage, we implore Jesus Christ: stay with us, Lord. Open our hearts to true conversion and, as we have known the Lord in the breaking of the bread, so make us witnesses of a new humanity, renewed, reconciled and at peace in Your love. Send us as heralds of the repentance and forgiveness You offer to all in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with You, forever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
That night the apostles met in fear;
Amidst them came the Lord most dear,
And said My peace be on all here. Alleluia!

Thursday of the Easter Octave

Collect:

O God, who have united the many nations in confessing Your Name, grant that those reborn in the font of Baptism may be one in the faith of their hearts and the homage of their deeds. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Today's Gospel reading: Luke 24:35-48

The Fifth Station - The Risen Lord is Recognized in the Breaking of the Bread

We adore You, O Christ and we praise You. Because by the Wood of the Cross and the Light of the Resurrection, You have redeemed the world! Alleluia!

Scripture: "...They urged Him, 'Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over.' So He went in to stay with them. And it happened that while He was with them at table, He took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that, their eyes were opened and they recognised Him, but He vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while He spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?'" (Lk 24: 29-32).

Reflection: The encounter on the road leads to the table, the breaking of the bread and the total gift of self. Recognition of the Risen Lord is always linked with the Eucharist. At the heart of our Christian life is this meal of Word and Eucharist which we celebrate every Sunday. The Risen Lord presides over all our journeys, wishing to set our hearts on fire in generous service to all people in need, near and far. The gift we have received is the gift we share. Humbly, we set out on the various roads of our lives to respond to all the hungers of the human family.

Prayer: You are truly blessed, O God of holiness: You accompany us with love as we journey through life. Blessed too, is Your Son, Jesus Christ, who is present among us, and whose love gathers us together. As once He did for His disciples, Christ now opens the Scriptures for us and breaks the bread. May the Eucharist we celebrate guide us to the fullness of Christ's life. We pray in the power of Christ's Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
When Thomas, first the tidings heard,
How they had seen the Risen Lord,
He doubted the disciples' word. Alleluia!

Friday of the Easter Octave

Collect:

Almighty ever-living God, who gave us the Paschal Mystery in the Covenant You established for reconciling the human race, so dispose our minds, we pray, that what we celebrate by professing the faith we may express in deeds. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Today's Gospel reading: John 21:1-14

The Sixth Station - The Risen Lord Appears to the Community of Disciples

We adore You, O Christ and we praise You. Because by the Wood of the Cross and the Light of the Resurrection, You have redeemed the world! Alleluia!

Scripture: "Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts? Look at My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Touch Me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have,' And as He said this, He showed them His hands and His feet" (Lk 24: 38-40).

Reflection: The disciples on the road to Emmaus quickly returned to the other disciples in Jerusalem with "burning hearts." Their despair had been reversed and they were eager to convince the others that Jesus was alive. Jesus the Christ is always eager to gather the community of disciples at the table of faith and to show them that He has risen with His wounds glorified. All our wounds will one day be glorified. We seek to understand how the Risen Lord invites us to be "wounded healers," recognising now that the Lord desires us to be ambassadors of reconciliation, while we ourselves are being forgiven and healed.

Prayer: God of unchanging power and light, look with favor and mercy on the entire community of Your Church. Bring lasting salvation to the human family, so that the world may see the fallen lifted up, the old made new, and all things brought to perfection, through Him who is our origin, our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
My wounded side, O Thomas see;
Behold My hands, My feet, said He
Not faithless, but believing be. Alleluia!

Saturday of the Easter Octave

Collect:

O God, who by the abundance of Your grace give increase to the peoples who believe in You, look with favour on those You have chosen and clothe with blessed immortality those reborn through the Sacrament of Baptism. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Today's Gospel reading: Mark 16:9-15

The Seventh Station - The Risen Lord Breathes Peace and Gives the Power to Forgive

We adore You, O Christ and we praise You. Because by the Wood of the Cross and the Light of the Resurrection, You have redeemed the world! Alleluia!

Scripture: "Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, 'Peace be with you'... The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so I send you.' And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained'" (Jn 20: 19b, 20b-23).

Reflection: Even though the doors of the Upper Room were bolted shut, the Risen Lord pierced through all fear and united the hearts of the disciples with the gift of peace. Deep inner peace is the root and source of the peace and joy that the world cannot give. The Risen Lord calls us to seek peace always through a non-violent commitment to conflict resolution and thus transform the world, relationship by relationship.

Prayer: God of perfect peace, violence and cruelty can have no part of You. May those who are at peace with one another hold fast to the good will that unites them; may those who are enemies forget their hatred and be healed. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
No longer Thomas then denied,
He saw the feet, the hands, the side;
'You are my Lord and God,' he cried, Alleluia!