

In This Issue >>>

Welcome

News & Events

Quiz

Notices

Key Dates

Issue
29



"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" – John 20:29



ARMY

Army Roman Catholic Newsletter



Welcome

From

*The Revd. Fr. Ian Stevenson CF
Principal Roman Catholic Chaplain (Army)*



Welcome to Issue 29 of the Army Roman Catholic Newsletter.

As we journey through the Easter season, we reflect on the profound significance of Christ's resurrection and the new life it brings to each of us. The joy of Easter continues to resonate in our hearts as we embrace this season of renewal and hope. Let us rejoice together in the light of Christ's victory over death and explore how this intense event continues to inspire us in faith.

Eastertide



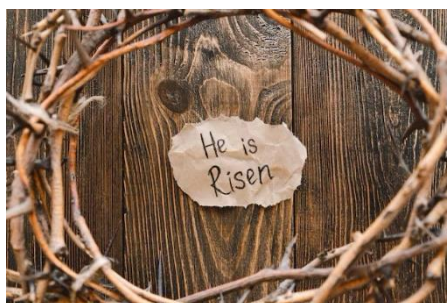
And so all the chocolate eggs and bunnies have been eaten and removed from the supermarkets however, the celebration of Easter in the Catholic Church is far from over as we are now in 'Eastertide'.

Catholics, as well as many other Christians celebrated the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday but, the celebration of Easter is actually 50 days long, leading up to Pentecost. It is the lengthiest season in the Church calendar.

You may ask, why do we celebrate Easter for 50 days? Well, there is a purpose and it is to experience and enjoy the triumph of the resurrection. One specific day is quite insufficient to truly celebrate the significance of Easter. Eastertide allows us the space and time to reflect on the renewal of life that God has given us through the sacrifice of His Son Jesus Christ. We, as the Catholic faithful, spent 40 days preparing for the Passion, Crucifixion and Resurrection of our Lord, and in turn we will spend the following 50 days celebrating Christ's victory over death.

There is also another reason for the Church to celebrate Eastertide. It is to remember the 40 days that Christ spent with His Apostles before His Ascension. Just as the disciples celebrated the Resurrection for 40 days, learning more from Jesus, we rejoice during the Easter season.

Throughout Eastertide, the first readings for every Mass come from the Acts of the Apostles. It will culminate with the reading of Acts 2:1-31 when the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles at Pentecost.



URBI ET ORBI MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

EASTER 2024

*Central loggia of the Vatican Basilica
Sunday, 31 March 2024*

Dear brothers and sisters, Happy Easter!

Today throughout the world there resounds the message proclaimed two thousand years ago from Jerusalem: "Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified, has been raised!" (*Mk 16:6*).

The Church relives the amazement of the women who went to the tomb at dawn on the first day of the week. The tomb of Jesus had been sealed with a great stone. Today too, great stones, heavy stones, block the hopes of humanity: the stone of war, the stone of humanitarian crises, the stone of human rights violations, the stone of human trafficking, and other stones as well. Like the women disciples of Jesus, we ask one another: "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" (*cf. Mk 16:3*).

This is the amazing discovery of that Easter morning: the stone, the immense stone, was rolled away. The astonishment of the women is our astonishment as well: the tomb of Jesus is open and it is empty! From this, everything begins anew! A new path leads through that empty tomb: the path that none of us, but God alone, could open: the path of life in the midst of death, the path of peace in the midst of war, the path of reconciliation in the midst of hatred, the path of fraternity in the midst of hostility.

Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ is risen! He alone has the power to roll away the stones that block the path to life. He, the living One, is himself that path. He is the Way: the way that leads to life, the way of peace, reconciliation and fraternity. He opens that path, humanly impossible, because he alone takes away the sin of the world and forgives us our sins. For without God's forgiveness, that stone cannot be removed. Without the forgiveness of sins, there is no overcoming the barriers of prejudice, mutual recrimination, the presumption that we are always right and others wrong. Only the risen Christ, by granting us the forgiveness of our sins, opens the way for a renewed world.

Jesus alone opens up before us the doors of life, those doors that continually we shut with the wars spreading throughout the world. Today we want, first and foremost, to turn our eyes to the Holy City of Jerusalem, that witnessed the mystery of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus, and to all the Christian communities of the Holy Land.

My thoughts go especially to the victims of the many conflicts worldwide, beginning with those in Israel and Palestine, and in Ukraine. May the risen Christ open a path of peace for the war-torn peoples of those regions. In calling for respect for the principles of international law, I express my hope for a general exchange of all prisoners between Russia and Ukraine: all for the sake of all!

I appeal once again that access to humanitarian aid be ensured to Gaza, and call once more for the prompt release of the hostages seized on 7 October last and for an immediate cease-fire in the Strip.

Let us not allow the current hostilities to continue to have grave repercussions on the civil population, by now at the limit of its endurance, and above all on the children. How much suffering we see in the eyes of the children: the children in those lands at war have forgotten how to smile! With those eyes, they ask us: Why? Why all this death? Why all this destruction? War is always an absurdity, war is always a defeat! Let us not allow the strengthening winds of war to blow on Europe and the Mediterranean. Let us not yield to the logic of weapons and rearming. Peace is never made with arms, but with outstretched hands and open hearts.

Brothers and sisters, let us not forget Syria, which for thirteen years has suffered from the effects of a long and devastating war. So many deaths and disappearances, so much poverty and destruction, call for a response on the part of everyone, and of the international community.

My thoughts turn today in a special way to Lebanon, which has for some time experienced institutional impasse and a deepening economic and social crisis, now aggravated by the hostilities on its border with Israel. May the Risen Lord console the beloved Lebanese people and sustain the entire country in its vocation to be a land of encounter, coexistence and pluralism.

I also think in particular of the region of the Western Balkans, where significant steps are being taken towards integration in the European project. May ethnic, cultural and confessional differences not be a cause of division, but rather a source of enrichment for all of Europe and for the world as a whole.

I likewise encourage the discussions taking place between Armenia and Azerbaijan, so that, with the support of the international community, they can pursue dialogue, assist the displaced, respect the places of worship of the various religious confessions, and arrive as soon as possible at a definitive peace agreement.

May the risen Christ open a path of hope to all those who in other parts of the world are suffering from violence, conflict, food insecurity and the effects of climate change. May the Lord grant consolation to the victims of terrorism in all its forms. Let us pray for all those who have lost their lives and implore the repentance and conversion of the perpetrators of those crimes.

May the risen Lord assist the Haitian people, so that there can soon be an end to the acts of violence, devastation and bloodshed in that country, and that it can advance on the path to democracy and fraternity.

May Christ grant consolation and strength to the Rohingya, beset by a grave humanitarian crisis, and open a path to reconciliation in Myanmar, torn for years now by internal conflicts, so that every logic of violence may be definitively abandoned.

May the Lord open paths of peace on the African continent, especially for the suffering peoples in Sudan and in the entire region of the Sahel, in the Horn of Africa, in the region of Kivu in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in the province of Capo Delgado in Mozambique, and bring an end to the prolonged situation of drought which affects vast areas and provokes famine and hunger.

May the Risen One make the light of his face shine upon migrants and on all those who are passing through a period of economic difficulty, and offer them consolation and hope in their moment of need. May Christ guide all persons of good will to unite themselves in solidarity, in order to address together the many challenges which loom over the poorest families in their search for a better life and happiness.

On this day when we celebrate the life given us in the resurrection of the Son, let us remember the infinite love of God for each of us: a love that overcomes every limit and every weakness. And yet how much the precious gift of life is despised! How many children cannot even be born? How many die of hunger and are deprived of essential care or are victims of abuse and violence? How many lives are made objects of trafficking for the increasing commerce in human beings?

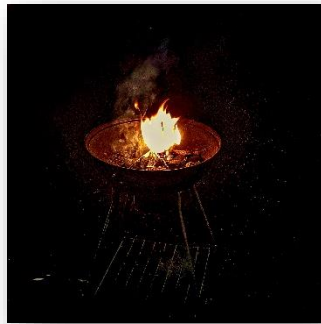
Brothers and sisters, on the day when Christ has set us free from the slavery of death, I appeal to all who have political responsibilities to spare no efforts in combatting the scourge of human trafficking, by working tirelessly to dismantle the networks of exploitation and to bring freedom to those who are their victims. May the Lord comfort their families, above all those who anxiously await news of their loved ones, and ensure them comfort and hope.

May the light of the resurrection illumine our minds and convert our hearts, and make us aware of the value of every human life, which must be welcomed, protected and loved.

A happy Easter to all!



Easter Vigil at The Cathedral of St Michael and St George - Aldershot





St Joan of Arc – Catterick Garrison

Deacon John Power celebrating a double Baptism.



In addition to life at ITC, St Joan of Arc is a vibrant community of serving personnel, veterans and also locals who come each Sunday for Mass and a social afterwards. One of the joys of having responsibility for the church is being able to welcome babies into the Church via Baptism. It is a chance to get to know their families well during baptism preparation classes. Recently, I had the joy of welcoming two brothers into the parish: a baby and a toddler. It was a joyous occasion (if not a little chaotic at times). The family were originally members of the community at St. Joan of Arc but, had hastily been posted to the South of England where the baptism took place.

During 2023 St. Joan of Arc Church was closed for nearly six-months for internal building repairs. The damage had become so significant that falling masonry had become a Health and Safety issue. Whilst the church was closed the community de-camped to St. Aidan's Free Church 200 yards down the road for weekly Mass while the damp and damage was repaired. At the same time the heating system and boiler was replaced. The community were delighted to move back to a nice warm church for the church for the 1st Sunday in Advent.



New ceiling



Ready for Easter

Life in Catterick Garrison remains busy and varied. One of the greatest privileges of being Chaplain to the Infantry Training Centre is being able to lead prayer at the Pass Off Parades. The Parade is the formal end of the 28 week training course and family and friends descend upon Catterick to see their sons and daughters 'pass off the square' as proud Infantry Soldiers.



As Chaplain to 1 Battalion Infantry Training Centre it is a time for me to see the progress that the recruits have made (especially in Drill!) and receive due applause from their proud families and friends. Some of the recruits I will have got to know really well and in sometimes quite challenging circumstances; personally and in training. Following the Parade the recruits and their loved ones return to the Corporals' Mess for celebratory drinks and a buffet. It is my chance to meet their families, some, whom I have also got to know well albeit at a distance.



St Patrick's Garrison RC Church Tidworth



Fr PJ O'Driscoll celebrating Mass on Passion Sunday at St Patrick's



Daniel was received into the church at the Easter vigil, where he received the Sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation. Please keep him in your prayers as he continues his journey of faith.



Ukrainian Catholic Church Manchester

Fr Volodymyr Sampara celebrated Easter at the Ukrainian Church in Manchester





1. Easter always falls between which two dates?
2. In the 13th Century, the church prohibited eating what during Holy Week?
3. What is the name of the fruitcake with marzipan balls traditionally served at tea-time at Easter?
4. Easter Island is part of which country?
5. When was the first White House Easter Egg Roll?
6. Where is the largest Easter Egg Museum?
7. In countries including Greece, Mexico and Spain, what is burned during Easter Bonfires?
8. The traditional Ukranian way of painting Easter eggs is called what?
9. Easter symbols like rabbits stem from what Anglo-Saxon festival?
10. Dyeing Easter Eggs is a tradition that began in which country?
11. Children in Finland dress as what on Easter?
12. In the Bible, who was the first to enter Jesus' tomb?

Answers to Newsletter Issue 29 will be published in Issue 30 or email Karen at: ArmyRCPAA21@gmail.com

Answers to Newsletter Issue 28: 1. 11 disciples Judas not counted, 2. Represents the cross on which Jesus died, 3. Anglo Saxon goddess - Eostre, 4. Lazarus Sunday, 5. Germany, 6. White Lillies, 7. Lamb, 8. Morris Dancing, 9. Easter Egg Hunt, 10. SE Pacific, 11. 13th Century, 12. Red.

Online with Saints App



Online with Saints offers a virtual encounter with 100+ saints from all around the world. Women and Men, carpenters and scholars, mothers and popes, princes and paupers: their inspiring life stories are linked to real life modern questions. Be sure to check the social media profiles of the saints in the app.

Anyone can become a saint. Each saint is different, with their own unique personality and destiny. Each of them found their vocation in a different way - demonstrating that God has a special plan and vocation for each individual.

Download the FREE online with saints app on either [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play](#)

Discover much more information about the saints:

- Social media profiles of the saints
- Animated videos about their lives
- Information on their history
- Pray with the saints and find patron saints

Access videos

Turn on the subtitles in YouTube

- Via the app: scan a saint in the book
- Via the app: click on a saint's profile, play the video
- Via the website [onlinewithsaints.com](#)
- Via the YouTube channel of *Online with Saints*

Catholic Military App is Live!



The [Apostolat Militaire International](#) and [Tweeting with GOD](#) have launched the FREE Catholic Military Connect App. See the launch video [here!](#) It's designed explicitly for military Catholics.

- ❖ It offers:
- ❖ Strong Catholic prayers, all downloaded so they can be accessed easily whilst on ship/ops/ex etc.
- ❖ Answers to 200+ questions about faith and the military.
- ❖ Prayers specifically for the military.
- ❖ Testimonies from serving Catholics.
- ❖ Inspiring military Saints and quotes.
- ❖ Guidance for preparing for Mass and Confession.
- ❖ Spiritual first aid.
- ❖ Contact details for the Military Chaplain and Association of whichever country the user is in.
- ❖ The facility to upload spiritual reading.

The CMC app is currently available in both the [Google Play](#) and [App stores](#), for smartphones and tablets, in 8 languages (English, Italian, French, Spanish, Croatian, German, Portuguese and Dutch). This is an excellent resource for your spiritual armoury.



The Holy See endorses CMC App

The Vatican's Secretary of State, Cardinal Parolin, sent a message for the launch of the CMC App to the International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes. In his words: "I believe that the app will be immensely helpful to all military personnel, and in a particular way to young men and women who, in this important sector of civil service, seek to grow in personal friendship with Jesus Christ." See the video.

Event >>>

*Annual Mass for Deceased Chaplains
Westminster Cathedral
1st May 2024 - 1300 hrs*



Event >>>

International Military Pilgrimage Lourdes 2024



The UK Contingent will depart for the International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes on Thursday 23rd May 2024, returning Monday 27th May 2024.

Serving personnel may obtain details from their Military Chaplain or from the Pilgrimage Organiser: **Father Nick Gosnell**, Cathedral of St. Michael and St. George, Queens Avenue, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2BY. Tel: 01252 315042

The Travel agents are Tangley Tours, Pilgrim House, Station Road, Borough Green, Kent TN15 8AF. Tel: 01732 886666

Bishopric of The Forces Retreats

Are you in need of stillness and sanctuary? The Bishopric of the Forces is offering 4 opportunities to go on a retreat in 2024. The retreats are open to all MOD personnel (Regular, Reserve and Civil Servant); immediate dependants will be considered dependent upon the availability of places. Applications from junior ranks are particularly encouraged.

For 2024, Douai Abbey in Berkshire, Worth Abbey in West Sussex, Ampleforth Abbey in North Yorkshire and St Mary's, Kinnoull in Perthshire.



ST MARYS KINOULL 29 APR - 2 MAY 24



DOUAI ABBEY 23 - 28 JUN 24



WORTH ABBEY 14 - 17 OCT 24

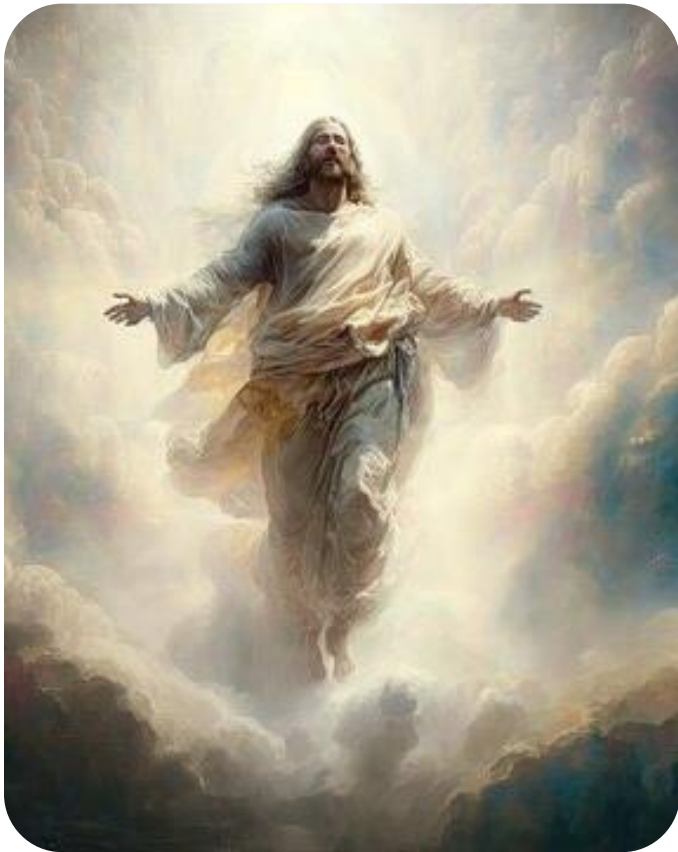


AMPLEFORTH ABBEY 11 - 14 Nov 24

The retreats are aimed at all levels of faith and knowledge, age groups, backgrounds, ranks and experiences. They will allow participants to challenge their preconceptions in a relaxed and non-judgmental environment. All venues offer a unique opportunity to take a fresh look at faith away from the pressures of everyday service life. The retreats aim to promote and foster spiritual and moral values from a faith perspective thus contributing to professional and personal development as well as serving to strengthen the moral component of the application of military force.

Further details can be found on the Defence Instructions and Notices: DIN 2022DIN01-013
Alternatively, please contact to register your interest or to receive further information:

Wg Cdr (Retd) Jem Wynne, Pastoral Administrative Assistant to the RAF Principal Roman Catholic Chaplain. Tel: 07834609153 Email: Jeremy.Wynne109@mod.gov.uk



Key Dates in April & May

4th Sunday of Easter – *21st April*

St George, Martyr, Patron of England
(Solemnity) – *23rd April*

St Mark, Evangelist (Feast) – *25th April*

5th Sunday of Easter – *28th April*

Ss Philip & James, Apostles (Feast) – *3rd May*

6th Sunday of Easter – *5th May*

The Ascension of the Lord (Solemnity) – *9th May*

7th Sunday of Easter – *12th May*

Pentecost (Solemnity) – *19th May*

The Most Holy Trinity (Solemnity) – *26th May*

An excellent website with weekly reflections on all the upcoming Sunday readings can be found at:
<https://www.tarsus.ie/>

CATHOLIC MILITARY ASSOCIATION the official network for Defence Catholics



We exist to support Catholics in the UK Armed Forces.

We are a lay association of the faithful whose members cooperate to support Catholicism in the UK Armed Forces. We strive to inspire one-another in the Faith, to grow through prayer and the sacraments, and to offer up our sufferings, persevering together in the universal call to holiness.

We are the official Defence Catholic Association, formally approved by the Right Reverend Paul Mason, Bishop of the Forces. We are a member of the Defence Christian Network.

We are serving personnel, helping others. Find us at: <https://www.catholicmilitaryassociation.org.uk/>

Information.....

If you wish to know more about Roman Catholic matters within the Army Faith Community, please contact: **Mrs Karen Horn MBE** Pastoral Assistant (PA) to PRCC(A) at: ArmyRCPAA21@gmail.com