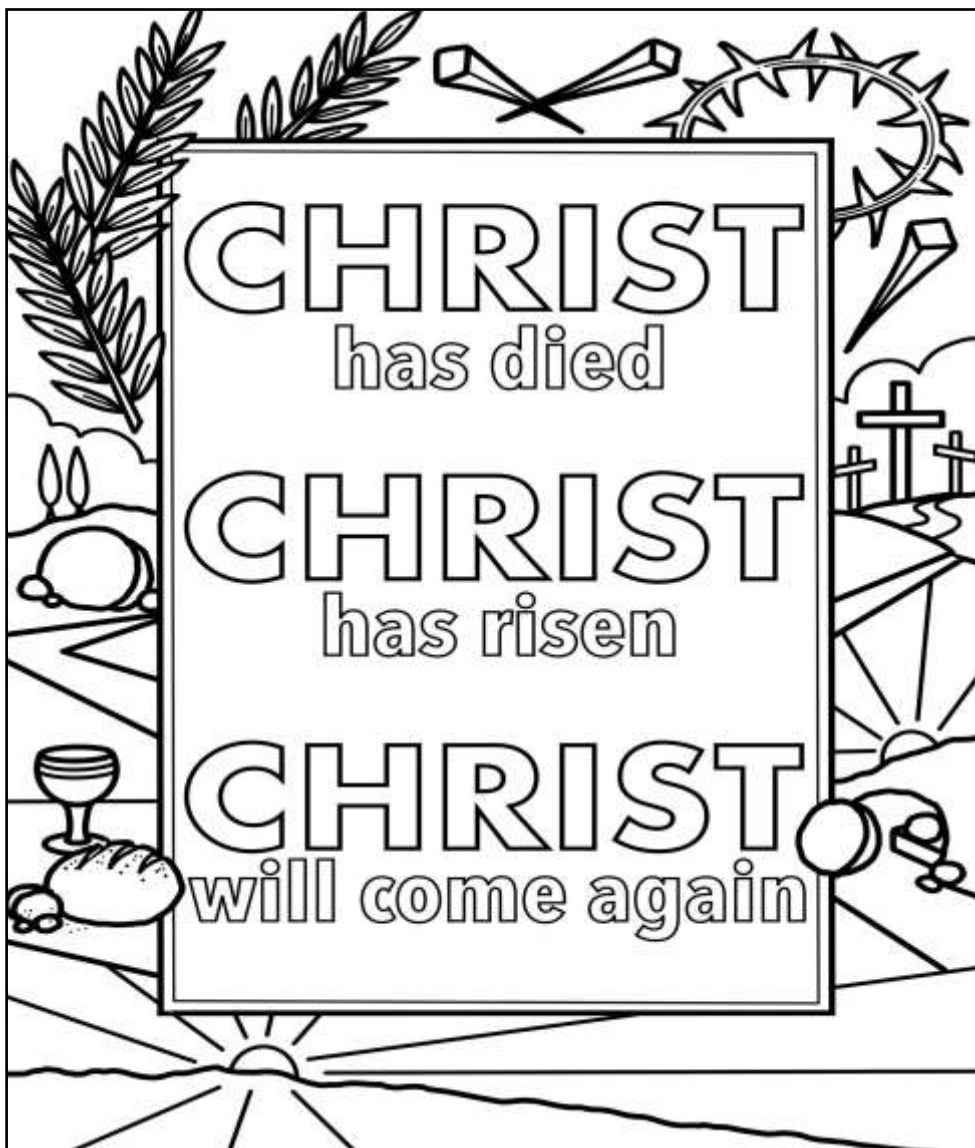


ARCH Group's aim: *"To show our love for God and You"*

Weekly Notices

31st March 2024

Easter Sunday



Today's Collect

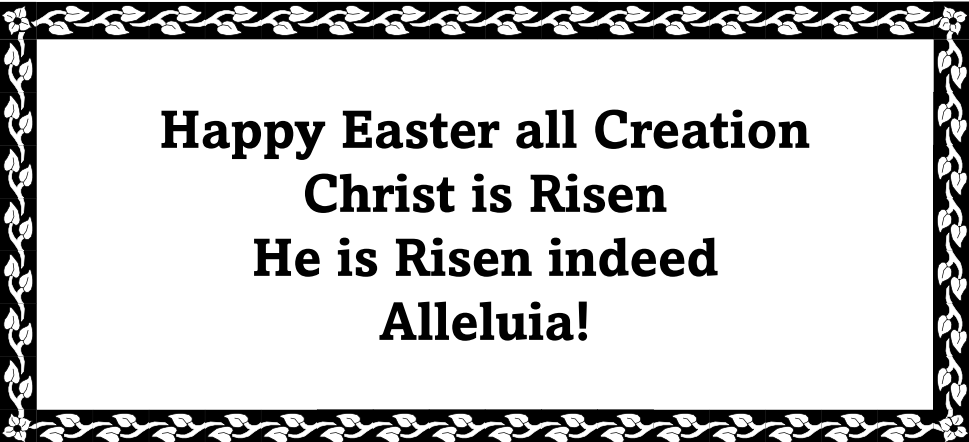
God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Today's Post Communion Prayer

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Week's Services: Sunday 7th April 2024

8.30 am	Rous Lench	Holy Communion*
9.30 am	Harvington	Morning Service
11.00 am	Church Lench	Holy Communion+



**Happy Easter all Creation
Christ is Risen
He is Risen indeed
Alleluia!**

For Prayer

We remember Jesus as he walked the lands and territories of the Middle East, and we think of those lands now. We think of the conflict still raging in Gaza, and the untold lives lost. We think of the leaders who refuse to negotiate or who put barriers in the way of peace. God of all, we ask for peace to be found, for access to be given so that the most needy may be helped and food and shelter provided. We pray that you would bring positive change in that region, and that the peace and hope of Jesus would be known.

Today we remember again that Jesus came to bring peace and hope.

We remember Jesus as he shared his guidance, spoke up for the weakest and made lives better. We think of those who live in our communities who face challenge, pain and hardship. We think of those who have been led into addiction and can find no way out. We think of our friends and neighbours who face illness and fear, who have lost those close to them, and who feel darkness in their lives. God of all, we ask that you would show your love and compassion for all whose lives are in trouble today and who find little to celebrate this Easter. We pray that all in need would feel your presence with them and that you would show us what we can do to work for you in changing lives and helping those around us. We pray that your peace and hope would be real to those whose lives are tough.

Today we remember again that Jesus came to bring peace and hope.

We remember Jesus as he led his disciples and taught them by example and challenge. We think of leaders of our nation, our area, and our church. We think those who make big decisions that change the lives of others and those with responsibility to lead people in living safely, or worshipping well. We think of ourselves as Easter people, called to live our lives knowing that Jesus is with us and following his example of life and service. God of all, we ask that you would bless all those who have leadership roles with your grace, generosity, compassion and the strength to do their work well. We pray for our government, our local councils, and our church leadership, that all may seek wisdom and understanding from you. We pray for ourselves, that we would be your servants in all we do. We ask that the new life of the season would be seen in us at home, school, work, and in our community. May we both know and share the peace and hope of Jesus.

Today we remember again that Jesus came to bring peace and hope.

Amen.

This Week's First Reading: *Isaiah 25:6-9*

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear. ⁷And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; ⁸he will swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. ⁹It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

This Week's Psalm: *Psalms 118:14-24*

- 14 The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.
- 15 Joyful shouts of salvation sound from the tents of the righteous:
- 16 'The right hand of the Lord does mighty deeds; the right hand of the Lord raises up; the right hand of the Lord does mighty deeds.'
- 17 I shall not die, but live and declare the works of the Lord.
- 18 The Lord has punished me sorely, but he has not given me over to death.
- 19 Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter and give thanks to the Lord.
- 20 This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

Psalm 118:14-24 continued

- 21 I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me and have become my salvation.
- 22 The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
- 23 This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.
- 24 This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

This Week's Second Reading: Acts 10:34-43

³⁴Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius. 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

This Week's Gospel Reading: *Mark 16:1-8*

¹When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' ⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Next Week's First Reading: *Acts 4:32-35*

³²The whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Next Week's Psalm: *Psalm 133:1-5*

- 1 Behold how good and pleasant it is to dwell together in unity.
- 2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down upon the beard,
- 3 Even on Aaron's beard, running down upon the collar of his clothing.
- 4 It is like the dew of Hermon running down upon the hills of Zion.
- 5 For there the Lord has promised his blessing: even life for evermore.

Next Week's Second Reading: *1 John 1:1-2:2*

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life – ²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us – ³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

¹My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Next Week's Gospel Reading: *John 20:19-31*

¹⁹When it was evening on the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' ²⁸Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' ²⁹Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.