



*St James – A shining light in Petts Wood*



# ST JAMES THE GREAT

## Briefly

Weekly Newsletter

**31st March 2024**

Easter Sunday Of The Resurrection Of The Lord



**Fr David Says.....**

As a beautiful butterfly soared overhead, one caterpillar said to the other, "You will never get me up in one of those things!"

Yet for every caterpillar the time comes

when the urge to eat and grow subsides and he instinctively begins to form a chrysalis around himself. The Chrysalis hardens and you would think for all the world that the caterpillar was dead. But one spring morning the life inside the chrysalis will begin to writhe, the top will crack open, and a beautifully formed butterfly will emerge. For hours it will stand stretching and drying its wings, moving them slowly up and down and up and down. And then, before you know it, the butterfly will glide aloft, effortlessly riding the currents of the air, alighting on flower after gorgeous flower, as if to show off its vivid colours to the bright blossoms. Somehow the miracle of the butterfly never loses its fascination for us. Perhaps that is because the butterfly is a living parable of the promise of Resurrection. On Easter Morning, the disciples saw Jesus's shroud on the cold slab, empty, but still lying in the wrapped folds that had gone around and around the corpse. Only the corpse was gone, the grave clothes left behind, much like an empty chrysalis deserted by a butterfly which has left it to soar free.

When we look at the news on our televisions or read it on social media and newsletters, we are all well aware of all the hardship and pain that exists in our world today. There is no day that goes by where we don't read the story of a random act of terrorism or a shooting or a knifing of one kind or another. There are painful and heart breaking scenes of war especially at the moment in the atrocities that we are seeing in Gaza and the Ukraine. Even in our own country and communities, there are senseless acts of violence that leave families grieving for the death of a loved one. How are we meant to celebrate Easter in such difficult circumstances?

Even in the time of Jesus, there was inequality, injustice and poverty. He would have seen it, experienced it and been very familiar with it. It is into that particular world that he came with the good news of the Kingdom of God. It is into our world today that Jesus comes with same good news. It is in and through our world today that we experience and share in his resurrection. However a lot of us are questioning – Where are you God in the atrocities of innocent people who are experiencing at the moment. Where are you? And there are no answers to these questions to these feelings.

The trial and the crucifixion must have been such a painful and even disappointing experience for his followers, friends and family. They had placed such hope in Jesus. In his

preaching, his teaching and in his miracles. Then they had to stand and watch as he was betrayed, condemned, beaten and then crucified. They stood and watched him die. It is in and through our ordinary daily lives and our world today that Jesus comes risen from the tomb. The Resurrected Jesus comes to us as we are. But he also comes as he is. He comes to us in his new and everlasting life. Death has not have had the final say. Where there was despair, God brings us hope. Where there was darkness, God has bright light. Where there was death, God bring us not only just life, but new and everlasting life. These are the gifts that God offers each of us through the resurrection of Jesus.

In a world where there is often the reality of suffering, violence and injustice, we are called to be people of hope. Even when hope is difficult to hang on to. However this is not ordinary human hope. This is the hope that comes to us through the resurrection of Jesus. In the face of sadness, difficulty and pain, we are called to look to and rely on the resurrected Jesus and not on our own strength and resources.

The call, invitation, and even challenge of Easter is that I experience it personally deep within myself. through my faith I am called to be an Easter Person – a person of the resurrection. I am called and asked to be a person who is filled with the new life and hope of the resurrected Jesus.

We may be tempted to give in and give up on the world as it is. However because we now share in the powerful resurrection of Jesus, we are to live our daily lives as much as possible as with hope beyond understanding. As a community we pray everyday for a resolution for these war torn countries and some people have asked me why should we keep on praying – nothing is happening. Within myself I believe in the chrysalis. Although we do not see anything for a long time, it does not mean that nothing is happening. I believe that our prayers make a difference to the world and ultimately and in God's time, we will experience the beautiful butterfly we pray for.

As Pope Francis says to us: as Christians "we must never look like people who have just come back from a funeral". And in his first Easter Message Pope Francis offered us this: It is always possible to begin anew, because there is always a new life that God can awaken in us and the world in spite of all our failures".

I would like to offer each and everyone of you – a Happy and blessed Easter – an Easter based on Hope beyond understanding. Thank you for once again took your time to read my reflection. God bless you all.



All the Masses being said at St James' will be live streamed  
<https://www.churchservices.tv/pettswood>  
**For the protection of all attend St James we request that you do not video live Masses using your phone during services.**  
 You can also take part in Adoration and Benediction by live stream.  
 All events for live streaming are listed on the streaming site.

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Confessions will be heard in the church on Saturdays, 5.00-5.45pm,  
 or by appointment.

<b>The Easter Vigil In The Holy Night</b> <b>Saturday 30th March</b>	<b>11:30am</b> Swieconka - Blessing of the Easter Baskets <b>8:00pm</b> Maureen Dillane RIP (J Dillane)
<b>Easter Sunday Of The Resurrection Of The Lord</b> <b>Sunday 31st March</b>	<b>09:15am</b> Tony Finn (Irwin Family) <b>11:00am</b> Monica Gallagher - Birthday (A Bunnage) Nicki, Michelle, Fiander & Family (Rowland Family)
<b>Monday within the Octave of Easter</b> <b>Monday 1st April</b>	<b>10:00am</b> Francesca Margaux Sio RIP (J Sio)
<b>Tuesday within the Octave of Easter</b> <b>Tuesday 2nd April</b>	<b>10:00am</b> Healing & Welfare of Daniel Parker (Parker Family)
<b>Wednesday within the Octave of Easter</b> <b>Wednesday 3rd April</b>	<b>10:00am</b> In loving Memory of Trevor Lyons RIP (G Whitley) <b>10.45am</b> Eucharistic Adoration
<b>Thursday within the Octave of Easter</b> <b>Thursday 4th April</b>	<b>10:00am</b> John Branch RIP (J McElroy)
<b>Friday within the Octave of Easter</b> <b>Friday 5th April</b>	<b>No Mass from St James'</b> <b>Please note that St Edmund of Canterbury, Beckenham will be live streaming their</b> <b>Mass at 10:00am.</b> <b>Click here for direct link to St Edmund's:</b> <b><a href="https://www.churchservices.tv/beckenham">https://www.churchservices.tv/beckenham</a></b>
<b>Second Sunday Of Easter</b> <b>Saturday 6th April</b>	<b>06:00pm</b> Phil Mordy RIP (O'Mahony Family)
<b>Sunday 7th April</b>	<b>09:15am</b> John Coyne RIP <b>11:00am</b> People Of The Parish

### Second Collections

The collection at the Masses over the Easter weekend are your personal offerings for your Parish Priest.  
 A reminder that the 200 Club subscriptions renewals are now due.



#### The current needs for this week are for:

- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned cold meat
- Tinned Custard
- Cooking Sauces
- Desserts, sponge puddings, jelly

For more information go to: <https://bromleyborough.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>