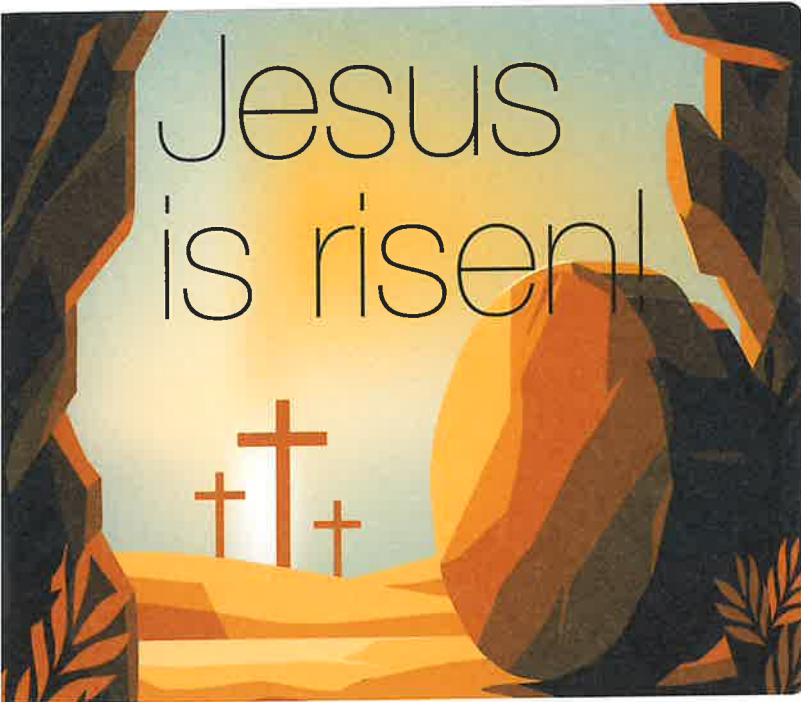


SUNDAY *Plus*

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord **Divine Office Week I** Year A

Everyone at Redemptorist Publications send you and yours their prayers that you will be filled with *Easter joy and peace. May the risen Lord bless you and keep you.*



We wonder what the disciples of Jesus had been doing from the time he was arrested. Except for John, who had dared to go to Calvary, they seem to have given way to panic and gone underground...

The women, the Marys, Salome, Joanna the wife of Chuza, behaved as women always do in these crises: they went on with the business of living. Back in their houses, they prepared aromatic spices... but during the Sabbath, they "kept still, as the law commanded." They did not go out immediately when the Lord's Day was over, for Golgotha was a sinister place where one would not care to venture out at night. But at daybreak, the Gospel is precise about this, they hurried along the road to the tomb where lay, so they thought, Jesus whom

they had loved...

The women went up to the sepulchre, still overshadowed by the events of the previous two days, uneasy and miserable. They had conquered their fear, but they had need of all their courage... the holy women were astounded by the disappearance of the body and, realising that the guards were no longer there, they were frightened too.

The first reaction of the disciples was to doubt the women's story as an old wives' tale. St Peter, however, wanted to see for himself and ran to the sepulchre. Another disciple went with him, undoubtedly John... it was exactly as the women had said; the grave clothes lay on the ground, the stone was rolled away. Then, suddenly, they felt the invasion of faith.

Henri Daniel-Rops, *Jesus and His Times*

If we must all cooperate in the great cause of unity and love, let us seek to do so first of all with our behaviour in everyday situations, starting also from the work environment.

Pope Leo XIV

Candle in the darkness

It was a wonderful moment as we walked towards the church to the band's accompaniment, the snow-covered mountains clear in the moonlight. I used to find the Easter Vigil service very complicated until I learned not to try to analyse it, but simply to look and let the symbols teach their own message. I looked at the candle in the darkness and recognised the darkness in all

the bewilderment, numbness, frustration, helplessness and anxiety I had experienced on this pilgrimage of peace. The light came into the darkness and I felt the joy of it, an inner certainty in all my uncertainty, a hope when everything seemed hopeless, an assurance that all manner of things shall be well and that Christ is greater than all my stupidity and sinfulness. I knew then that I was caught up in something far greater than my mind can ever grasp.

Gerard W. Hughes SJ, *Walk to Jerusalem*

Feast of the week

Easter Sunday

Because he lives
Because he lives, I can face tomorrow.
Because he lives, all fear is gone
Because I know he holds the future
And life is worth the living
Just because he lives.

Bill and Gloria Gaither



READINGS

Tuesday:
Acts 10:34, 37-43
Colossians 3:1-4 or
1 Corinthians 5:6-8
John 20:1-9

Monday:
Acts 2:14, 22-33
Matthew 28:8-15

Tuesday:
Acts 2:36-41
John 20:11-18


Wednesday:
Acts 3:1-10
Luke 24:13-35

Thursday:
Acts 3:11-26
Luke 24:35-48

Friday:
Acts 4:1-12
John 21:1-14

Saturday:
Acts 4:13-21
Mark 16:9-15

Next Sunday:
Acts 2:42-47
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

Living Lord, I believe in you. I love you. I adore you.  Amen.