



# HOLY WEEK 2024

May Holy Week be a time of increasing our understanding of Jesus who is the way, the truth, and the life.

May this time deepen our experience of the reality that God's love enfolds us, transforming sorrow into joy, darkness into light, and death into the fullness of life.





# We pray for peace

During Holy Week,  
we continue to pray  
for all who are suffering  
the injustice  
and heart-breaking  
devastation of war.



# Prayer for Holy Week



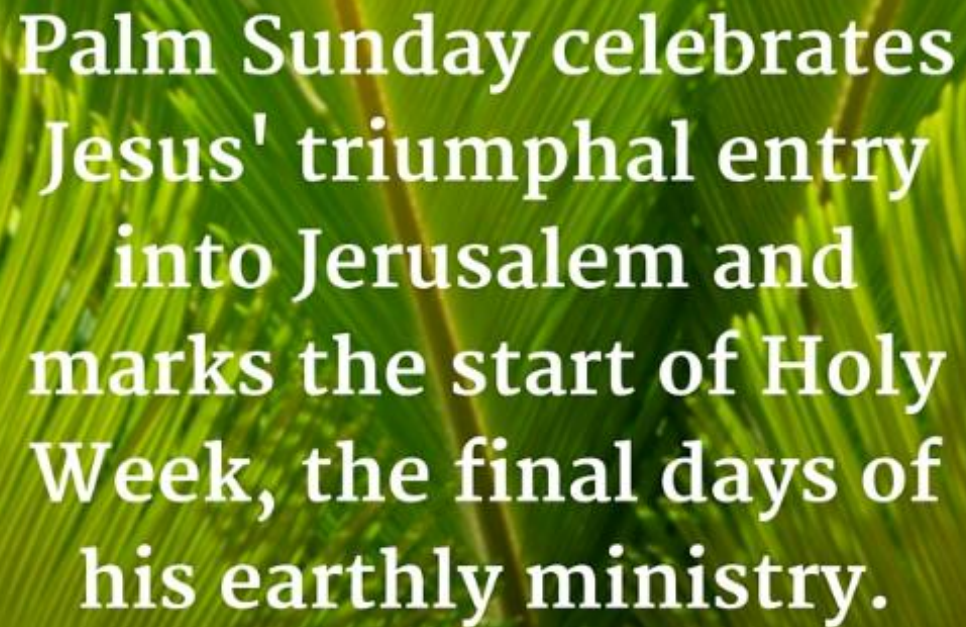
O, God, as we journey through Holy Week  
and through this uncertain time of  
challenge towards the cross,  
May we remember  
the wonder of who You are.  
Beyond sickness,  
Your healing brings wholeness.  
Beyond sin, Your love is inexhaustible.  
Beyond brokenness, Your forgiveness is  
incomprehensible.  
Beyond betrayal, Your grace is poured out  
eternally.  
Beyond death, Your life is unimaginable.  
Beyond human understanding,  
Your ways are always higher than ours.






Palm Sunday March 24, 2024  
Mark 11:1-10





Palm Sunday celebrates  
Jesus' triumphal entry  
into Jerusalem and  
marks the start of Holy  
Week, the final days of  
his earthly ministry.



*Blessed is the  
one who comes  
in the name of  
the Lord!*

Matthew 21:9

**PALM SUNDAY**

# Mark 11:1-10

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, saying to them,

“Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden.

Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.’”

They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway.



As they untied it, some people standing there asked, “What are you doing, untying that colt?” They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”





View this short video about Holy Week  
<https://bustedhalo.com/video/holy-week-in-two-minutes>

*Palm  
Sunday*





# What Kind of King are You?

What kind of King  
rides on a donkey  
a donkey that might be borrowed,  
or might be hijacked?

What kind of King  
builds a castle  
with a wide open door for children to enter  
but a needle-eye sized hole for the rich?

What kind of King  
rides on a donkey  
into the city where  
his assassins are waiting?

What kind of King  
lets his followers send a  
public message to the competing powers?

What kind of King are you?

What kind of King  
can send two followers  
to fetch a donkey  
and know exactly what they'll need to say?

What kind of King  
can tell a blind beggar  
"Your faith has made you well."  
And actually make him see?



‘No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends’ (John 15:13)

- Though suffering and chaos befall us, they can never quench that inner light of providence.
- The human journey is a continuous act of transfiguration.



# Spy Wednesday / Holy Wednesday



Holy Wednesday is also called "Spy Wednesday" because this is believed to be the day on which Judas Iscariot made arrangements to betray Jesus in exchange for thirty pieces of silver.

# Easter Triduum

The high point of the Liturgical Year is the Easter Triduum —from the evening of Holy Thursday to the evening of Easter Sunday.

The liturgical services that take place during the Triduum are:

Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion

Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord





# Holy Thursday

Holy Thursday is the commemoration of the Last Supper of Jesus

Jesus celebrated the supper as a Passover feast.

The Last Supper was the final meal Jesus shared with his Disciples in Jerusalem.

During the meal, Jesus predicts his betrayal.

See:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x1R9Z9gkOck>

# A night reflection for Holy Thursday

*Pat Pierce/CAFOD (Adapted)*

- Jesus arrested, judged, found guilty and condemned to die is held captive overnight.
- If I were arrested and held this night what would I be found guilty of?

That I made friends with people irrespective of their colour, creed or class....

That I shared my bread with the poor....

That my words... and actions... brought healing and forgiveness....

That I worked for justice and didn't count the cost ....

That I sought the truth and then spoke of it....

That I met God along the way in the healing and forgiveness I received....



The image features three simple wooden crosses of varying heights against a soft, purple-hued background. The central cross is the tallest and most prominent, flanked by two shorter crosses. The overall mood is solemn and reflective.

Good Friday

# Good Friday

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Good Friday is the day on which Christians commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

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The events of Good Friday are remembered in the Stations of the Cross, a 14-step devotion

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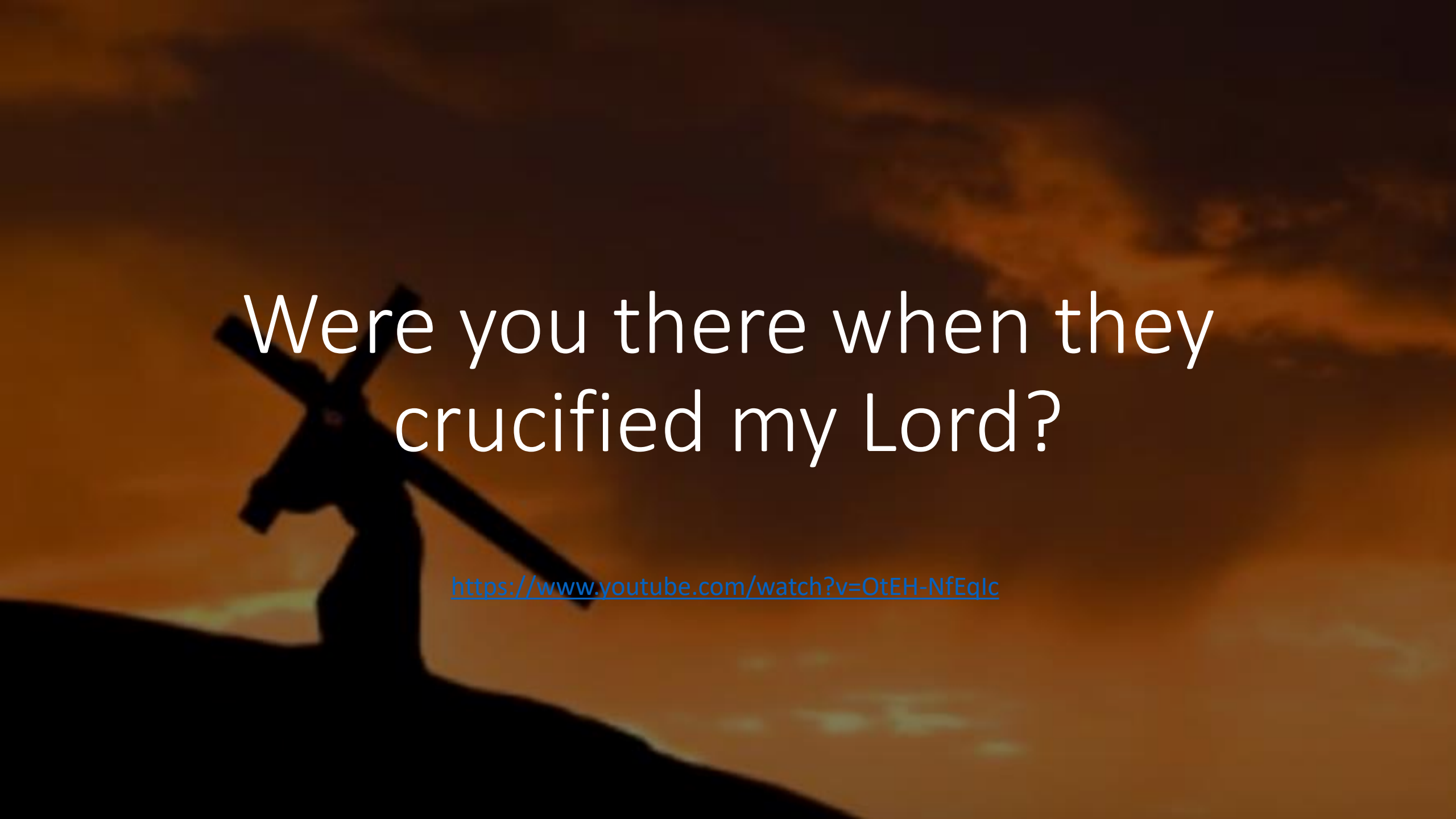
Good Friday is a day of fasting within the Church



# Stations of the Cross

THE WAY OF THE CROSS:  
TOGETHER  
FOR A JUST WORLD

- [https://www.trocaire.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/CH3\\_Stations-of-the-Cross\\_2023.pdf?type=parish](https://www.trocaire.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/CH3_Stations-of-the-Cross_2023.pdf?type=parish)

A silhouette of a cross is positioned on the left side of the image, set against a background of a sunset or sunrise with warm orange and yellow tones. The cross is dark and stands out against the lighter sky.

Were you there when they  
crucified my Lord?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OtEH-NfEqlc>



# Lewis Capaldi Someone You Loved

- So much beautiful sacred music expresses the sense of desolation of Good Friday.
- Songs outside this realm also capture the essence of this day.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u1yVCeXYa4>

*now the day bleeds, into nightfall, and  
you're not here, to get me through it a*



# Holy Saturday

... a day of patient waiting

when we prayerfully

reflect on the

passion and death of

Christ and await his

resurrection.





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- “Every Holy Saturday, the Church waits as it were beside the tomb, meditating on Christ's death while awaiting the announcement of his resurrection. Like John, we can take Mary into our homes and ponder with her the last words of Christ. Like her, we can rest in a place between anguish and joy, waiting in quiet hope... A new day will come. His Cross is not defeat; it is victory!”  
— Sarah Christmyer, [Walk in Her Sandals: Experiencing Christ's Passion through the Eyes of Women](#)





“There is silence in the  
long wait of  
Holy Saturday...when grief  
is lived in solitude.”

Yet God’s apparent silence  
is not God’s absence...  
It is “not closure but a  
transition until the silence  
is broken by a familiar  
voice that speaks our  
name.”



# Easter Vigil





The Easter Vigil, celebrated on Holy Saturday evening, marks the beginning of Easter.

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- In the Liturgy, we have:
  - Service of Light
  - Liturgy of the Word
  - Liturgy of Baptism
  - Liturgy of the Eucharist.







# THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

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## The Easter Fire

At the Easter Vigil, the Paschal candle is lit from this new fire.

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# Resurrection Light

Risen Christ, when darkness  
overwhelms us  
may your dawn beckon.

When fear paralyses us  
may your touch release us.

When grief torments us  
may your peace enfold us.

When memories haunt us  
may your presence heal us.

When justice fails us  
may your anger ignite us.

When apathy stagnates us  
may your challenge renew us.

When courage leaves us  
may your spirit inspire us.

When despair grips us  
may your hope restore us.

And when death threatens us  
may your resurrection light lead us.

Amen.

*Annabel Shilson-Thomas/CAFOD*



# The Paschal Candle



The Paschal Candle is the great Christian symbol of Easter. It is lit from the Easter fire at the start of the Easter vigil. Representing the risen Christ – the light of the world – the Paschal Candle is carried into the darkened church. Everyone in the congregation lights their small candle from this Easter candle.

# The Light of Christ

The light of God has  
come to us  
so that we might  
have salvation



- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbLHOA6mRkk>



**This magnificent lighting  
up of the darkness is a  
powerful reflection of the  
presence of Jesus among  
the people...**

**Christ is alive and living  
among them**



# The Paschal Candle



The candle is placed on a high stand by the altar and remains lighting for every Liturgy over the fifty days of Easter.

# Paschal Candle at the Baptismal Font



After the season of Easter, the paschal candle is placed beside the baptismal font and is lit for every celebration of Baptism. A new paschal candle is lit each Easter.



## Easter Proclamation: Exsultet

- The *Exsultet* is the Easter Proclamation, sung at the end of the Service of Light, the first part of the Easter Vigil. It tells the story of the whole Easter mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus.



# Easter Proclamation: *Exsultet*

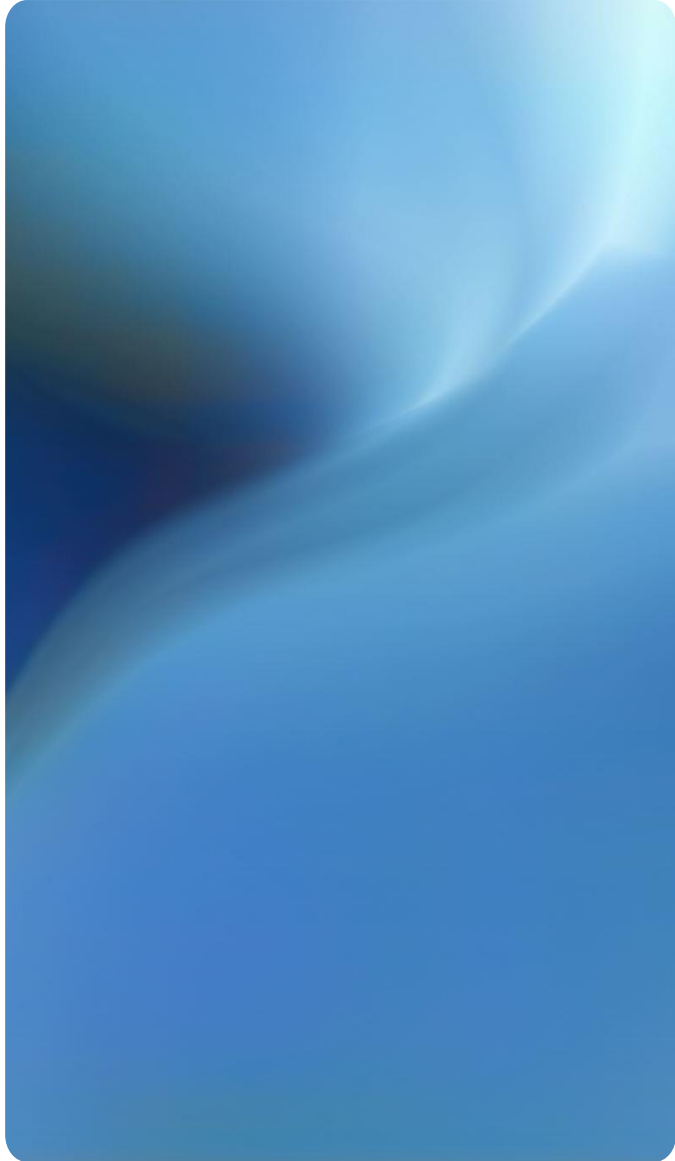
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YE TnSx9HuMo>
- From Glenstal Abbey
  
- The Exsultet is sung in the light of the paschal candle at the Easter Vigil. This great poetic text proclaims the history of salvation and its fulfilment in the mystery of Easter.



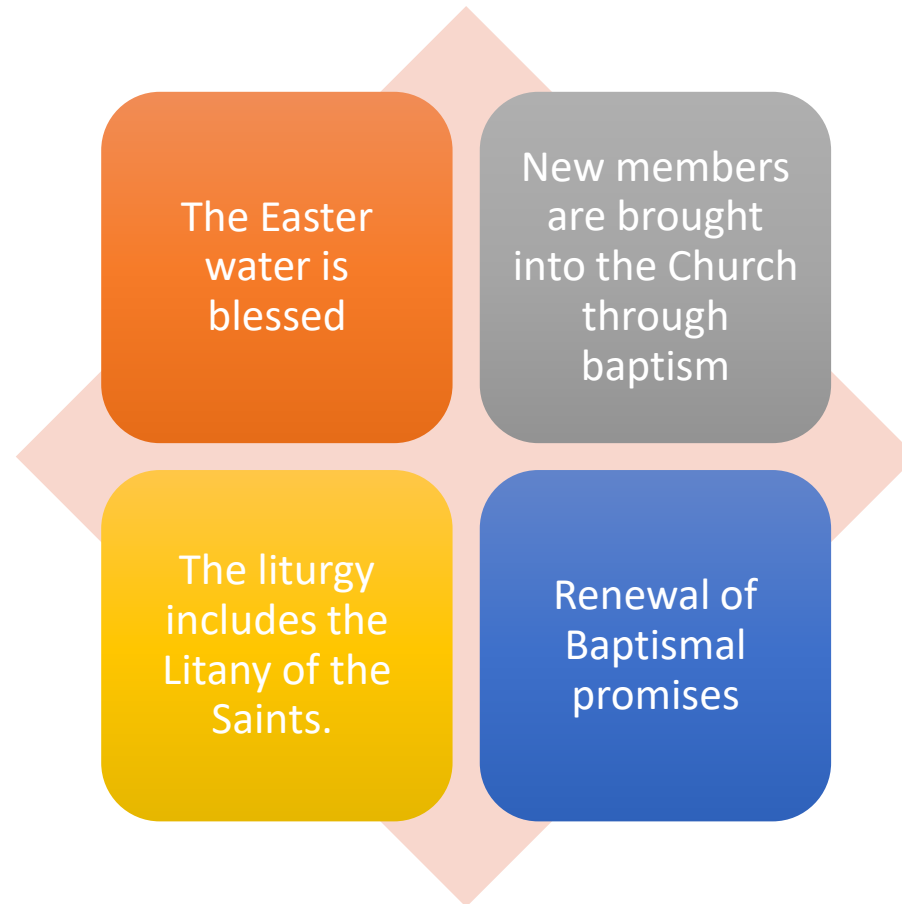


## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

- [Easter Vigil Readings 2024 - March 30 2024 - Holy Saturday Night Mass - Homily \(catholicreadings.org\)](#)
- Easter Vigil Readings 2024 – March 30 2024



# THE LITURGY OF BAPTISM





# THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

- Through the celebration of the Eucharist, the Church continues to celebrate the resurrection of the Lord.



# Easter Sunday



- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0HY9PM9sWhw>

For Christians,  
Easter is the  
most  
important  
event in the  
Liturgical Year.





# Alleluia

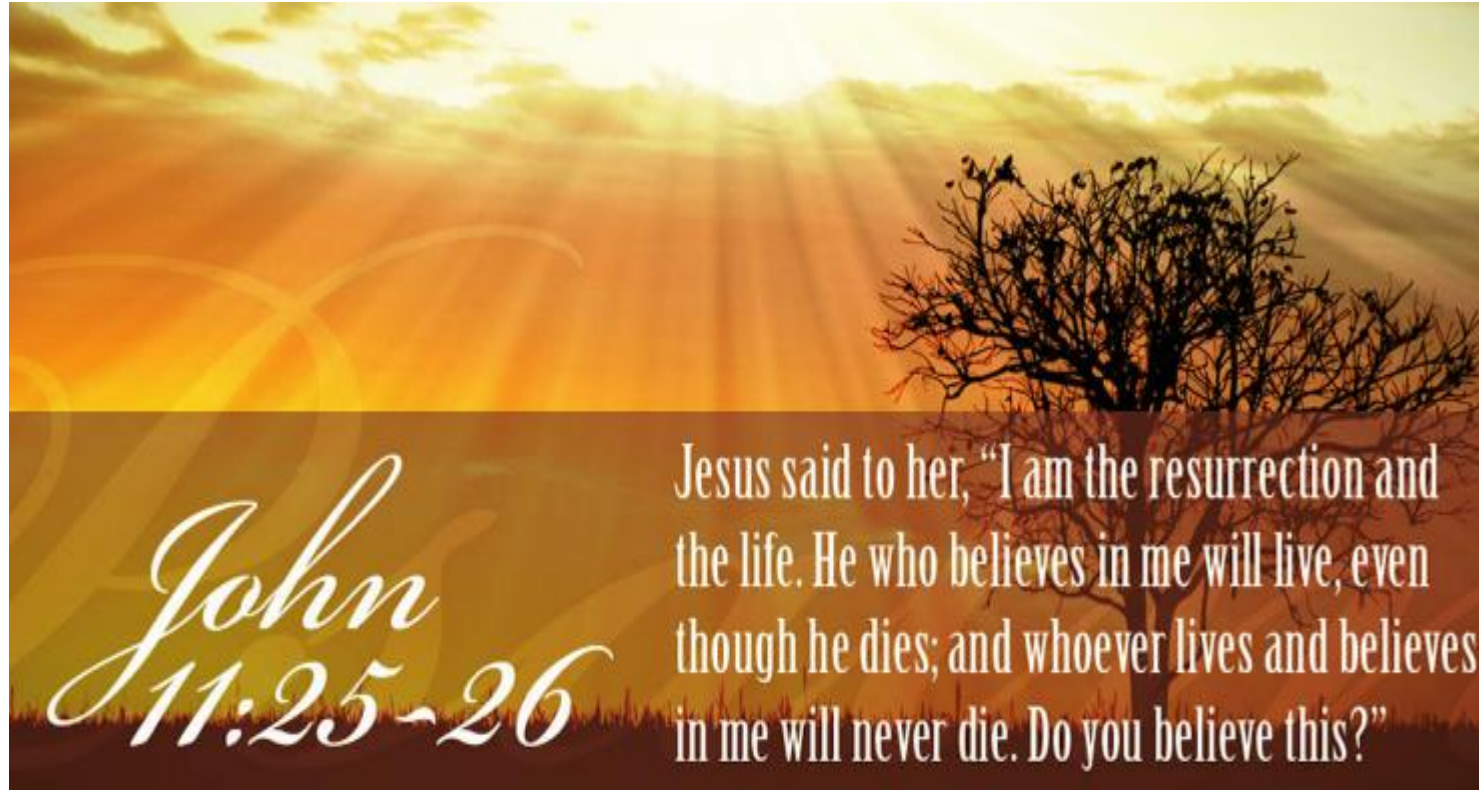
## Handel's Messiah: Hallelujah Chorus

- [Handel's Messiah: Hallelujah Chorus \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z0100888888)





# Happy Easter!





## There is Resurrection

From the depths of despair  
and darkness' grip  
comes boldest joy  
in resurrection life.  
He is alive.

From hopeless grief  
the power of death  
comes a new way forward  
a kingdom born  
eternal life.

And his people hold on  
they're awaiting the day  
of Pentecostal power.