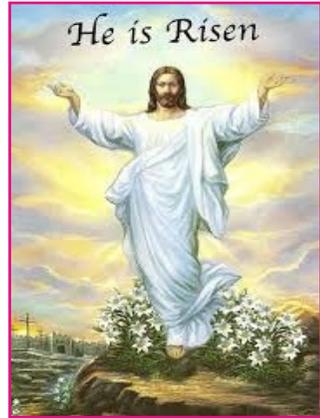
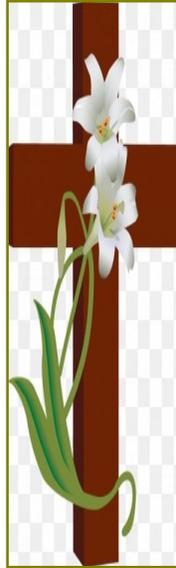
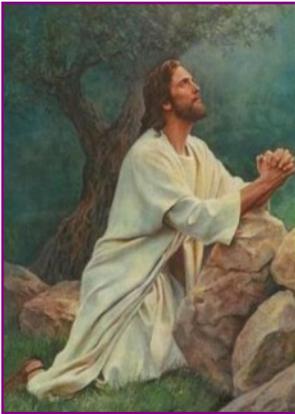


GRAPE VINE



Lent into Easter 2021



THE GRAPE VINE

Parish Magazine

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Opinions expressed in articles or letters are
Those of the writers and not necessarily of
the Clergy or Editorial Staff.

+++++

OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION AND HOLY FAMILY

Catholic Parish Clergy

The Rev Canon Peter Rollings - Parish Priest and Dean.

Rev John Belfield - Deacon.

Rev Martin L'Estrange - Deacon.

Fr Gordon Adam - Assistant Priest. Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham.

Rev Shaun Morrison - Deacon. Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham.

ADDRESS

The Catholic Rectory, North Everard Street, King's Lynn. Norfolk.
PE30 5HQ.

Telephone: 01553 - 772220 **Email:** parishpriest763@btinternet.com

Web Site: www.catholicparish-kingslynn.org.uk

[Due to Covid-19 the Church offers Live Streaming of Sunday Mass.](#)

[Details of the Live Streaming of Sunday Mass for you:](#)

From Our Lady's, London Road, King's Lynn.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8V030I7usRZiKoTlrwBAKg>

11.30am Sunday

The YouTube link is

<https://youtu.be/UvufRDE76Ho>

For attendance: you are invited to notify us of your intentions for attendance at Mass. Please e-mail to parishpriest763@gmail.com , copied to gordonadam1962@btinternet.com , stating which Mass and how many people in your household group would like to attend by Saturday lunchtime please.

Mass readings are daily uploaded on the parish website:

<http://www.catholicparish-kingslynn.org.uk>

The parish newsletter for the week can also be found on the website.

For Mass Times please check the parish website:

<http://www.catholicparish-kingslynn.org.uk>

EDITORIAL

Dear All,

With Mothering Sunday just behind us and Easter approaching, Spring in full swing and early morning-light gilding the horizon, rimming pink the last sleep-heavy clouds, my greetings for Easter come to you like a bunch of blue violets.

I do hope that you are well and that the hardship of the past months may get lighter in this season of Awakening. Our hearts love the abundance of blooms bursting out of the dark shelter of the ground. Life! New life!

Whenever I spend time with the El Greco painting 'The Agony in the Garden' (Inlay), my eyes wander to the sleeping disciples whom El Greco painted as if curled up in a spiritual womb, oblivious, it seems, of the events about to happen.

Their earthly, sleep-heavy innocence is like the green shoot of a plant about to penetrate the soil in which it has been developing and growing, about to be immersed in the light of the day, but now 'born again' as Jesus revealed to Nicodemus.

When they wake up, they will short-after be ready, they will be the rock and the pillars of the Kingdom of God, the witnesses and voices that proclaim Jesus.

Pope Benedict XVI wrote in this context that 'the believer **becomes** one with Christ.....he **becomes** a well that gives life.' And then: 'Saints are oases around which life sprouts up and something of the lost paradise returns.' We know that this is true. And then, there is love: 'O living flame of love that tenderly wounds my soul in its deepest center!' are the words of St John of the Cross. Jesus said 'Peace I give you' and St Therese of Lisieux said ' My soul is at peace...'

And so, may I wish you that the abundance of beauty, life, spiritual graces, love and joy make your Easter happy, rich and wonderful. **Lotte.**



PLEASE PRAY FOR

Parish Sick List:

Anne Lindley, Caroline Glazebrook, Susan Young, Maria DeRosa, Renee Thomas, Helen Seaman, Stuart McPherson, Stephanie McAllister, Mark Griffiths, Eileen Griffiths, Beryl Green, John Green, Ann Hemming, Debbie Roper, Catherine Carr and for all those who are ill and not listed by name but known to us.

Peter Martin has had his second eye operation and is recovering.

Parish:

Please pray for our clergy and all volunteers, for all who can come to Services and for all those who cannot attend or still have to isolate. Please pray for all who are sad and experience hardship, for all those who are homesick and miss their loved ones. Please pray for the children going back to school.

DEATHS

Gordon Murray

Sally Dennish

Timothy Ruane

Mary Power

Teresa Price

Ruby Cox

Roger Twigg



I can no longer
see you with my
Eyes But I will
feel you in
my
Heart 
Forever

No Baptisms or Marriages.

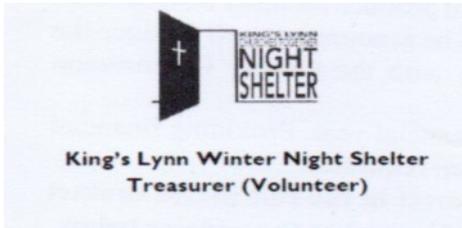
Rev **Mark Anthony Edmund Langham** sadly died 15 January 2021, aged 61. He was a Catholic priest who served in parishes in his native London, in the Vatican as an official working on inter-church relations and latterly as Chaplain at the University of Cambridge.

Pope Francis's visit to Iraq.



On March 5, Pope Francis, leader of the Catholic Church, embarked on a historic four-day trip to Iraq, where he met with officials, religious leaders and ordinary Iraqis of all faiths.

Remarkably, he went to Najaf where he visited Grand Ayatollah al-Sistani, the spiritual leader of Iraq's Shia community. The meeting was a significant milestone in Iraqi history and the global history of interfaith dialogue. He also visited the ancient city of Ur, Erbil, the capital of Iraq's Kurdistan region, and Mosul, where he prayed at the ruins of four churches destroyed by ISIL.



King's Lynn Winter Night Shelter.

The King's Lynn Winter Night Shelter is a Registered Charity (**No1175645**) established in 2017 by Churches Together in King's Lynn to provide emergency accommodation for anyone with nowhere safe to stay. Now in our fourth year, we are seeking a Treasurer to support the Trustees and staff in developing the work of the charity as we look towards next winter and beyond.

It is expected that this volunteer role will commence at the end of October 2021 following a period of induction and when our current Treasurer is due to step down. The current post holder is expected to continue as a Trustee and will be able to provide guidance and support.

Applications are welcome from anyone with relevant experience and in sympathy with the Christian ethos of the charity. DBS (enhanced) clearance and references will be required.

The role of the Treasurer will include:

1. Recording the Night Shelter's (NS) income and expenditure on an ongoing basis.
2. Reconciling petty cash regularly.
3. Acting as point of contact for the NS's bank. Dealing with or overseeing the deposit of cheques and cash donations at the local branch, and with BACS transfer payments. Reconciling monthly statements with own records. Placing funds on deposit when appropriate.
4. Providing details of hours worked by staff by the 20th of each month to the NS's accountants, who will manage all payroll matters including liaising with HMRC for tax codes. They will provide payslips for distribution to staff and advise of PAYE & NIC deductions to be paid to HMRC. The Treasurer instructs the bank to make bank transfers to staff on 25th of each month.

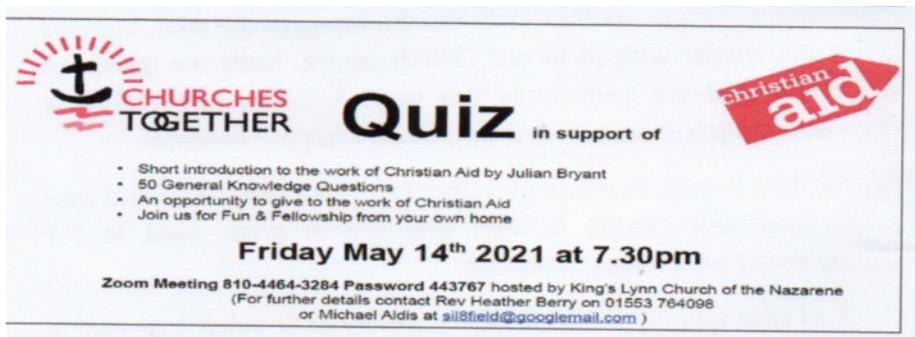
5. Liaising with the NS's accountants who will produce monthly management accounts for circulation among the trustees. The accountants will produce the annual accounts for the Treasurer to lodge with the Charity Commission together with the Trustees' own Report.

6. Providing budget forecasts for the next financial year. Providing financial data to the Trustees when appropriate or when requested.

For further information or to express interest in the role please contact the Trustees c/o Lucy McKitterick (Co-ordinator) at the address below.

King's Lynn Winter Night Shelter, St John's House, Blackfriars Road, King's Lynn PE30 1NT. Tel:01553 - 776109.

Email: nightshelter.steering@gmail.com www.klwns.org.uk



The poster features a logo on the left with a cross and an anchor, and the text "CHURCHES TOGETHER". To the right is the word "Quiz" in a large font, followed by "in support of" and the Christian Aid logo. Below this is a list of bullet points: "Short introduction to the work of Christian Aid by Julian Bryant", "50 General Knowledge Questions", "An opportunity to give to the work of Christian Aid", and "Join us for Fun & Fellowship from your own home". The date and time "Friday May 14th 2021 at 7.30pm" are prominently displayed. At the bottom, contact information for a Zoom meeting is provided: "Zoom Meeting 810-4464-3284 Password 443767 hosted by King's Lynn Church of the Nazarene (For further details contact Rev Heather Berry on 01553 764098 or Michael Aids at sil8field@googlemail.com)".

A Happy Christmas Collection

From SVP in King's Lynn

Fewer parishioners able to attend Sunday Mass. Will that greatly reduce our S.V.P collection this year? Was that the case? No! Far from it, the pandemic has touched the hearts of so many, indeed it has brought out the very best. Times have been difficult, but generosity and a true spirit of love in our community have prevailed.

Despite the hardships endured by many, this year's SVP collection for those in need has reached the amazing sum of almost £1000.

It is with heartfelt thanks, great joy and humility that we, your brothers and sisters in the society of St Vincent de Paul have been able, on behalf of the parish, to reach out to many in need this Christmas. Lockdown restrictions have deprived us of those fruitful visits to care homes and to those who are alone. They are not forgotten. Eighty of our loved ones have received a Christmas card and a Mass card. They have all been remembered in a Novena of Masses during Christmastide at the Basilica of Our Lady at Walsingham.

Donations in kind have been made to the Food Bank, the Night Shelter, the Purfleet Trust, a local charity providing help to the homeless. Residents from Merchants Terrace another local charity, have, in the past, enjoyed Christmas Day dinner with us in our Church centre. Sadly we could not open our doors to our neighbours this year. A turkey and Christmas puddings were delivered to ensure they too had a happy Christmas.

And finally, dear friends, thank you for your love, your generosity and your care. You have given many families who are in great need in our community a very, very happy Christmas.

We thank all who support the work of the Society of St Vincent de Paul in our parish. Be assured of our prayers.

We wish all of you, our brothers and sisters a year filled with many blessings from the infant Jesus in a humble stable. The poor are always with us.

St Vincent de Paul. Pray for us.

Pauline McSherry, St Mary's Conference, January 6th 2021. Feast of the Epiphany. Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation, Kings Lynn.

THE MOUNTAIN

If the mountain seems too big today
then climb a hill instead
if the morning brings you sadness
it's ok to stay in bed

If the day ahead weighs heavy
and your plans feel like a curse
there's no shame in rearranging
don't make yourself feel worse

If a shower stings like needles
and a bath feels like you'll drown
if you haven't washed your hair for days
don't throw away your crown

A day is not a lifetime
a rest is not defeat
don't think of it as failure
just a quiet, kind retreat

It's ok to take a moment
from an anxious, fractured mind
the world will not stop turning
while you get realigned

The mountain will still be there
when you want to try again
you can climb it in your own time
just love yourself til then

Laura Ding-Edwards 2019 ©



St Joseph

Sent by Maria McGovern from the Elder's Group

Richard Crashaw (1612-1649)

One of my English teachers had a great liking for the poetry of Richard Crashaw, which was how I came to learn about him. He was born in London in 1612 in the reign of James I, the only son of William Crashaw, a staunch Puritan preacher and writer, a strong critic of Catholicism. Richard's mother died when he was young, and his father's second wife died in 1620. His father's death in 1626 made Richard an orphan. However, the attorney general and a prominent judge were made his guardians. These men enabled him to enter Charterhouse School in 1629 and later Pembroke Hall in Cambridge. He graduated from Cambridge in 1634.

From 1636 to 1644 Crashaw was a fellow of Peterhouse. In 1638 he was ordained and became a curate of Little St Mary's Church, close to Peterhouse. At this time, he was also associated with the community at Little Gidding. When Cromwell's forces advanced on Cambridge, Crashaw had to resign his fellowship at Peterhouse.

Crashaw fled into exile in 1644, during the English Civil War. It was at this time Crashaw became a Catholic. His poetry was now very marked by Catholic imagery, especially in the poems he wrote about St Teresa of Avila. Queen Henrietta Maria, Charles I's wife, was in exile in Paris, when Abraham Cowley discovered Crashaw living there in extreme poverty. Queen Henrietta recommended Crashaw to the Pope. Eventually, after many petitions, the Pope found Crashaw a place with Cardinal Palotto, who lodged him at the Venerable English College in Rome in 1647.

Crashaw expressed shock at the amoral behaviour of some of the cardinal's household and complained directly about it to the cardinal. When these complaints became known, animosity grew against Crashaw. Finally, in April 1649, the cardinal found him a cathedral benefice at the Holy House in Loreto, a town and shrine just south of Ancona.

Weakened by his precarious existence in exile, Crashaw arrived at Loreto in May 1649 and died there on 21 August 1649. Crashaw was buried in the shrine's lady chapel.

What endears me to Crashaw is his description of Christ's incarnation:

*Welcome, all wonders in one sight!
Eternity shut in a span;
Summer in winter; day in night;
Heaven in earth, and God in man.
Great little one, whose all-embracing birth
Lifts earth to heaven, stoops heav'n to earth.*



John Cairns

Parish Financial Report 2020

The financial returns for 2020 have now been completed and sent to Diocese, so I thought it was a good time to follow up my article in the last edition of Grapevine and update parishioners on how the parish survived the year.

As expected, the limited attendances that were allowed at Mass did have an impact on the Offertory collection which was reduced to about 75% of the normal annual amount. The closure of our churches meant that we did not receive any money from the various groups who make donations throughout the year for the use of the facilities, and we were also unable to use them for fundraising activities of our own.

Despite this, the income that the parish received increased overall. A large part of this was due to two generous legacies that the parish received, but there were also generous donations made by parishioners during the lockdowns and some parishioners transferred their Gift Aid payments to standing orders during the year which ensures a steady income to the parish throughout the year. In addition a number of parishioners started new Gift Aid donations during the year.

In terms of expenditure, we managed to keep our outgoings below normal despite replacing the roof of St Joseph's House and spending nearly £10,000 on COVID related work, such as the new streaming service, which will continue to be an asset for housebound parishioners after the pandemic is over.

Our other major expenditure has been, as ever, the Diocesan levies. Since our levies are based on the amount of our Offertory collections in the previous year, we did not receive any reduction this year, but we will receive a significant reduction next year to reflect the reduced collection.

This is a brief report of the state of parish finances. A more detailed report is available for inspection in the presbytery by prior arrangement with Father Peter.

Vince Murray - Parish Treasurer.

GIFT AID: How to uplift your financial donation to the Church by 25%
– at no cost to you.

Agreeing to donate to the parish by Gift Aid is a one off process, and payment can be made either through your bank or through weekly envelopes, whichever you prefer. Once made, your agreement continues for as long as you continue to pay tax, or until you cancel it. For every pound you Gift Aid, the parish receives an extra 25p back from the tax man.

There is no annual paperwork, no cost to you, and it is totally confidential. If anybody wants to contribute to the Parish through their bank account, the Parish bank details are as follows:

Bank:	Barclays Bank
Account Name:	Kings Lynn Catholic Parish
Sort Code:	20-46-65
Account number:	40249157

Gift Aid forms and Standing Order forms are available from Father Peter, Father Gordon or me.

Vince Murray (vincemurray37@outlook.com) Parish Treasurer

Gift Aid forms and Standing Order forms are available from Father Peter, Father Gordon or me.

Vince Murray (vincemurray37@outlook.com) Parish Treasurer

A Teacher Remembers



Gareth, about seven years old, had fallen in the playground, accidentally knocked over I think. There to the rescue with a helping hand and a kindly word was Miss. “Did you hurt yourself sweetheart? “. “No Miss, I didn’t hurt myself. Somebody else hurt me.” Now there’s logic from a seven year old and a lesson for the teacher. I did not ask that silly question ever again.

A retired teacher “Miss”



Page by the Young



Infant Baptism

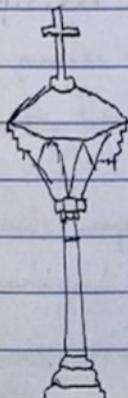
In most Christian Churches, including the Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian and Catholic Churches, new babies are baptized, or christened, soon after birth.

Baptists welcome the baby to the church after baptism but protestants believe the youngster should make their own decision.

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not will believe will be condemned.

- A baby is baptised by priests or Vicar

Font



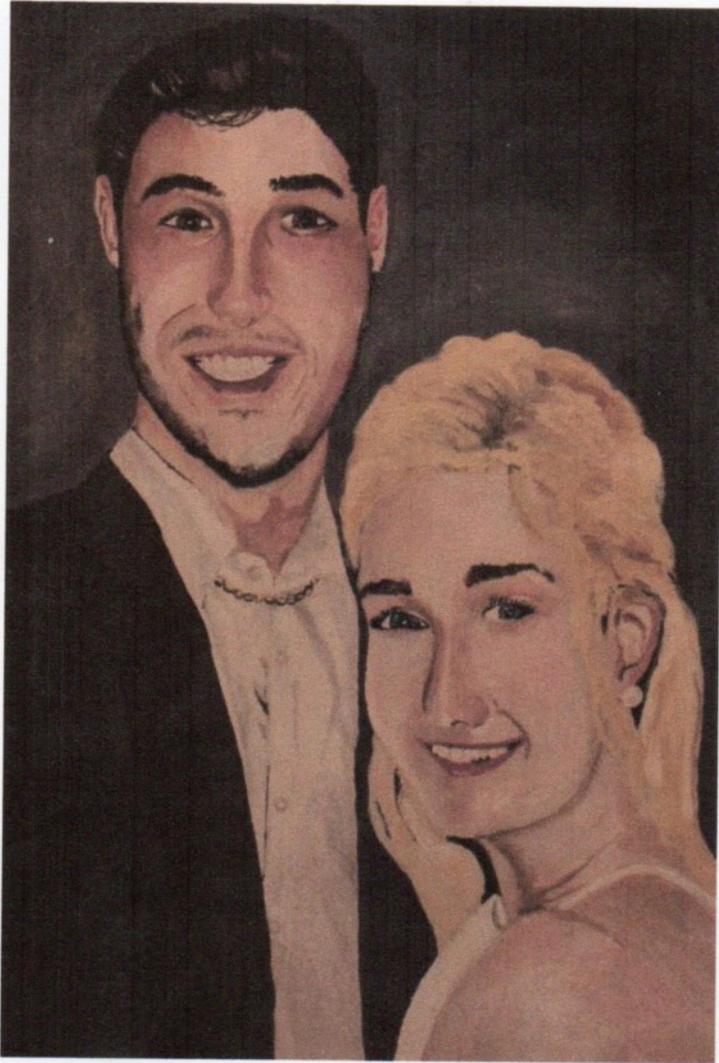
Filled with water blessed by priests
on shape of cross on baby's forehead
"I baptist"

Rionne felt that Baptism belongs to Easter

Page by the Young



Kenu has made this Mothering Sunday Spring Bouquet.



Franz Smith painted this wonderful portrait of his friends Alex and Mcayla and Taras, now 3-years old, created his 'Self portrait as a snowman'.



Many thanks for the wonderful material.

I changed the heading from Page FOR the young to
Page By the Young



Jane Nicholson is a Carmelite icon painter and has kindly allowed me to use two of her icons in this issue. In the inlay is her rare icon painting of ‘Mary Magdalene’ and the above insert is ‘Mother of God’. Jane is also the head of FARA charity. Here are a few words about FARA: WWW.faracharity.org

“FARA charity cares for Romania’s poorest families, helping to heal abuse and trauma amongst marginalised children and adults. Giving security and love to those who need it most – fulfilling lives, rebuilding futures, spreading hope. Our Mission is to transform the lives of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged living in Romania’s poorest communities.”

Mary Magdalene and her Red Egg

We all know the awe-inspiring story of Mary Magdalene, the first person Christ appeared to after his Resurrection. She was a true saint of hope running to tell the Apostles she had seen the Lord. They didn’t believe her until they ran to the tomb themselves.

The unbelief of the Apostles steeled her for a life of ministry to many who did not believe in Christ’s Resurrection. Her story didn’t end at the tomb of Jesus. She continued to witness to the Faith and Resurrection – and she did it with an egg. It’s part of the reason we use Easter eggs at Eastertime.

According to tradition, St. Mary Magdalene—who was a wealthy woman – gained an audience with the Emperor Tiberius in Rome after Christ’s Resurrection. Denouncing Pilate for the way he conducted himself at Christ’s trial. Mary told the Emperor about Christ and His Resurrection from the Dead.

Holding out an egg to him, she proclaimed “Christ is Risen!”

The Emperor was not impressed. He told St. Mary Magdalene that there was about as much chance of a human being returning to life from the dead as there was of the egg in her hand turning red.

The egg promptly turned red!

This is why many icons painted in the Byzantine Catholic style show Mary Magdalene holding a red egg. Even before the time of Christianity, eggs were a symbol of creation, spring, and rebirth. After the Resurrection of Christ, they took on deeper symbolic meaning. The sealed tomb of Christ was the uncracked egg. St. Augustine described Christ's Resurrection from the dead as a chick bursting from an egg.

The Eastern Catholic Church to this day distributes red Easter eggs, and the tradition of sharing Easter eggs across the world stems directly from Mary Magdalene's proclamation of Christ's Resurrection to the Emperor and the miracle of the red egg.

Peter Martin found this piece explaining the red egg in the hand of Mary Magdalene. Thank you!

Memories of Candlemas Day 2020

I have such happy memories of the party for parish volunteers on Candlemas Day a year ago.

Words of welcome and gratitude by Canon Peter opened that memorable and very happy occasion, just a few words. Then our priests Canon Peter and Father Gordon and deacons John, Shaun and Martin ministered to us, their guests.

Do you remember the chat, the laughter, I might even say the noise in the Wigglesworth Room that evening? Do you remember the excellent tasty morsels, the full glasses and attention bestowed upon us by our clergy? It was such a happy gathering.

Times may have altered since Candlemas 2020. Lockdown has brought many changes to our lifestyle, however, the service of our ministers remains constant. We continue to offer our heartfelt thanks to you for your devotion to us your parish family. Streamed Masses, Thursday Talks, letters, parish newsletters, Website and phone calls give so much comfort. I know I am not alone. I belong to a family that really cares and for that I am blessed and truly grateful.

Pauline Mc Sherry Candlemas Day 2021.

And just to bring a smile.....A Deacon's Prayer

Brothers, sisters, may we serve you
We your deacons here in Lynn?
Do not judge us by our Latin
When we fail forgive our sin.

Brothers, sisters, please do listen
To our sermons long and deep
May you always hear our message
It is not a time to sleep.

Dearest Deacons we do thank you
Grateful words flow from this pen
Deo gratias for our Deacons.
Amo. Amas. Amat. Amen.

Anon.



Lenten Thought

Fasting from food is not difficult to understand. We reduce the amount of food and sweet items we eat when we are trying to lose weight. But doing this as something religious is not readily understood.

For Christians, the Forty Days of Lent have a biblical precedent, as shown in the forty years the people of Israel wandered the desert in search of the Promised Land. The Christian practice of Lent is based on the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness before he undertook his public ministry. A time of discipline and preparation is important before any important event or decision in life. So, prayer, fasting and abstinence are the three elements we use in preparation for the great mystery of Easter - the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord.

Fasting and abstinence do not mean that we hate or despise the world and its material goods. They are not ways of punishing ourselves. Fasting helps to deepen our awareness of God. By denying ourselves food, or a luxury (sweets, cigarettes, or alcohol) we limit our dependence on them.

We can change our usual habits and give particular attention to God. Ashes are given in church on Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, accompanied by a prayer regarding our end of life. We are urged then to give time to God so that God may speak to us in the silence of our heart.

All major faiths encourage fasting and abstinence as spiritual disciplines. The Christian Faith is no exception. Jesus fasted in the desert as part of his preparation before meeting his tempter. The early Christians observed

fasts. (Acts 13:2; 14:23). The Fathers of the Early Church recommended the practice also.

When Jesus fasted in the wilderness for forty days, he did it to show his relationship with God and the nature of his calling. To face inner temptation, he showed his relationship towards material needs and worldly power, affirming that his ultimate trust was in God. *Man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God* (Matthew 4:4).

Our fasting and abstinence are significant in a world dominated by a culture of consumption. Today we are encouraged to think of ourselves as mainly consumers or customers. Lent is a time when we contemplate things in relationship to God the creator, and not just as they exist for us.

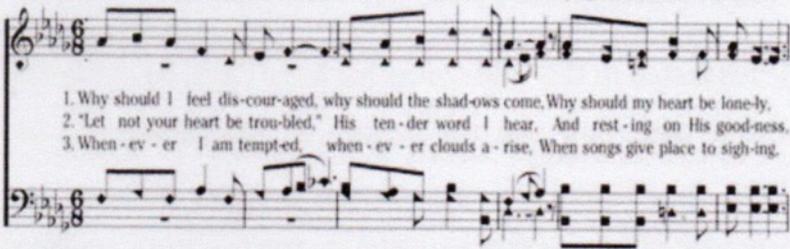
Fasting is always linked with prayer and almsgiving. Charitable giving is part and parcel of Lent, and of our everyday life. Those who are in need should benefit from our self-restraint – otherwise even fasting and abstinence can be regarded as self-indulgence. So, our prayer, fasting and abstinence should be of benefit not just to ourselves but to those who are in real need of our support.

John Cairns, King's Lynn Catholic Church.

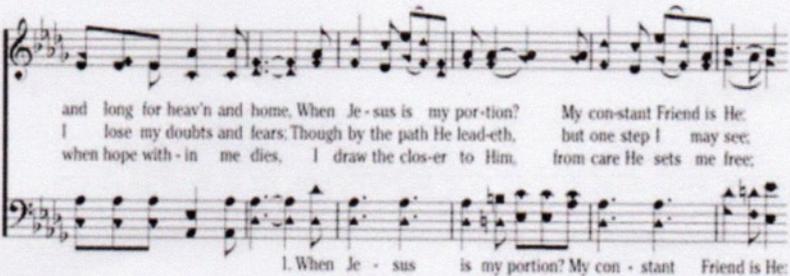


His Eye Is on the Sparrow

Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father... Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows. Mt. 10:29-31



1. Why should I feel dis-cour-aged, why should the shad-ows come, Why should my heart be lone-ly,
2. 'Let not your heart be trou-bled,' His ten-der word I hear, And rest-ing on His good-ness,
3. When - ev - er I am tempt-ed, when - ev - er clouds a - rise, When songs give place to sigh-ing,



and long for heav'n and home, When Je - sus is my por-tion? My con-stant Friend is He:
I lose my doubts and fears, Though by the path He lead-eth, but one step I may see;
when hope with - in me dies, I draw the clos-er to Him, from care He sets me free;

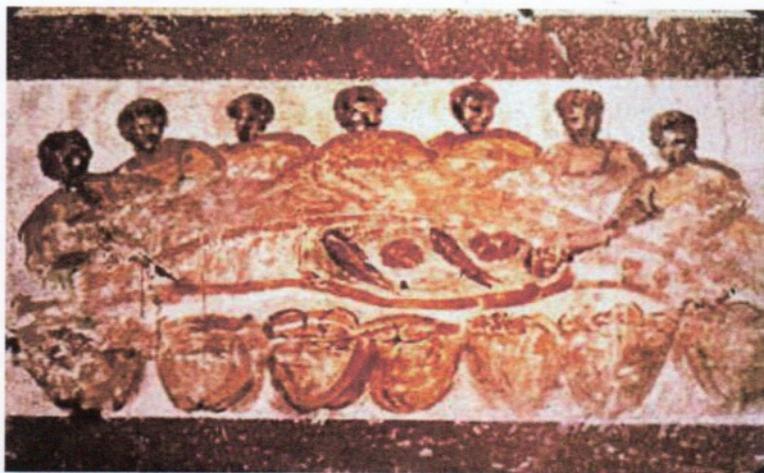
1. When Je - sus is my portion? My con - stant Friend is He:

Whitney Houston

Why should I feel discouraged, Why should the shadows come,
Why should my heart be lonely, And long for heaven, heaven
and home,

When, when Jesus is my portion, My constant Friend is He;
Oh, oh-oh, his eye is on the sparrow, And I know He watched,
watched it over me. I sing because I'm happy...





LAST SUPPER – EUCHARIST, Catacombs of Priscilla, Rome

Saint Priscilla's Story

Saint Priscilla and her husband Saint Aquila were Jewish converts to Christianity. It appears that their conversion was brought about when they met Saint Paul. We know about them from the Sacred Scriptures (read the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 18 for starters) and here is something beautiful: their names are always mentioned together, never separately. This reveals the unity lived out in their marriage. They were tentmakers by trade (as was Saint Paul) and were some of the earliest Christian missionaries. They were martyrs for the Faith, and their feast day is celebrated on July 8.

These two remarkable people set an example for us of hospitality, seen in opening their home to Paul and using their house as a meeting place for churches wherever they went. We are also impressed by their passion for Christ and their hunger for knowledge of Him.

It appears that at some point, Priscilla and Aquila moved back to Rome, for in his Letter to the Romans, Paul expressed appreciation to the couple, mentioning how they had once “risked their necks” for him. The Roman Martyrology lists their feast day as July 8.

<https://www.saintsfeastfamily.com/copy-of-st-priscilla-july-8>

Covid and Kindness

It was a grey, grim January morning, down came the rain, it soon turned to sleet, snow followed. Here was I, almost enthusiastic (but not quite) about a journey beyond the front gate, a break for freedom, a lockdown escape. That was January 14th, the day I was given for my first vaccination against Covid 19.

To be honest, I really was very anxious, anticipating problems. They never did happen. A decade or two of the Rosary helped to ease my anxieties – but only just for a time. There is much to be said for the kindness of the brothers and sisters in SVP, brothers and sisters and good friends. Eamonn was here at the arranged time, actually a few minutes early and from then on all my worries fled. Thank you Eamonn for that.

Those of you who have already had your vaccination will know just how smoothly the whole procedure is organised at St James's surgery. What really did impress me, touch me, move me, was the kindness shown me every step of the way.

Kindness, help, love, patience and all given with such good humour. The world is indeed full, of good people. St James's surgery is overflowing with goodness.

Thank you, a truly heartfelt thank you to all who were there to give a helping hand. Yes, "When I needed a neighbour you were there." Kindness costs nothing, it means everything. Thank you to the wonderful scientists without whom I would not have received my vaccination so soon.

I will leave you with the words of St Mother Teresa of Calcutta: "Not all of us can do great things but we can all do small things with great love." Again, thank you.

Pauline Mc Sherry. January 15th 2021





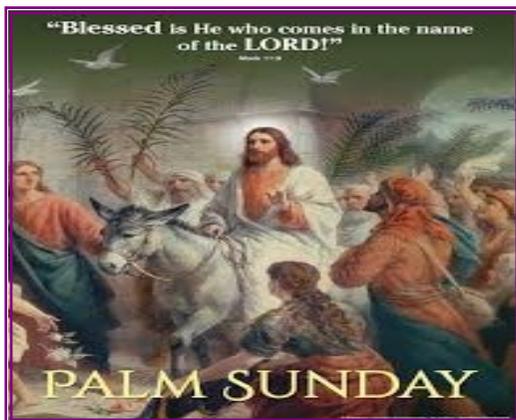
SAINT CHRISTOPHORUS

The poem 'The Giant and the Hermit' on the next page is by Gareth Calway.

The Giant and the Hermit

The giant said to the hermit,
"As a youth I waxed in my pride,
Overpowered all comers at games
Then I put childish things aside.
"As a man I donned sword and armour
And served the world's greatest king
Till I saw him in terror of Satan,
Such a coward was not worth serving".
At the heart of the darkest dark forest
I found Satan holding court.
'Are you then the world's strongest monarch? "I am."
"Then it's you that I've sought."
But a cross made King Satan cower.
"Do you fear a small piece of wood?!"
"Not the cross but He who once hung there."
So to Him would I go, if I could
"And I've followed this still voice within me
On the trail of that strongest one
To your cell, so, hermit, now tell me
Of this terrible Christ who was hung."
"Not by fighting but fighting evil,"
The hermit replied,
"Deserve This Christ who fears nothing and no-one
And whom only the bravest can serve."
"But God gave me might for a reason!"
The hermit replied,
' Then dwell here on the bank of this wild angry river

And carry poor travellers over.
So he lives until one night a child comes
Whom he carries into the stream
Whose slightness grows ever more heavy
Till his mighty legs bow at the knee.
"You're the heaviest burden I've carried,"
He says as he sets the child down.
How can littleness be so colossal?"
Then a great glory shines around.
From within it, the child speaks softly,
"I bear all the sins of the world,
All its sorrows, for I am The Christ child,"
The mighty man's senses whirl -
"And because you've been kind to the weakest
And borne Christ upon your back, 'Christopher' I call you...
and vanished like a star as the morning comes back.
"Not by fighting but fighting evil," The hermit replied,
"we deserve This Christ who fears nothing and no-one,
And whom only the bravest can serve."



Reflection- Passion Sunday

Passion Sunday — The Sunday before Easter, Palm Sunday, is observed by virtually all Christians. But for the Roman Catholic Church it is also Passion Sunday during which all stand for readings and meditations from the passion account. The feast has a bittersweet taste. Though it celebrates the King's triumphal entry into Jerusalem amidst hosannas, the parade leads straight to the Lord Jesus' suffering and death on Calvary.

We now come to the Sunday with a split personality. It starts with an upbeat gospel recounting Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. It is a festive affair, complete with a parade route strewn with palm branches.

But we quickly progress to the stark reading of Jesus' passion, bearable only because we already know its happy ending. Mel Gibson's film did us a favour in reminding us how shockingly brutal the whole business really was. There are two names for the same day: Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday. I propose a third name: Fickle Sunday.

For the same crowd that was *cheering* during the parade into Jerusalem was *jeering* a few days later. They'd been wowed by his sermons, fed with loaves and fishes, healed of their diseases, delivered of their demons. But as soon as the tide began to turn, so did they. Their cries of "*Hosanna*" turned to shouts of a very different kind: "*Crucify him!*"

Of course, he was not surprised in the least. The gospels tell us that he knew the human mind and heart all too well. He was not fooled by all the acclamation and fanfare. Flattery could not swell his head. He had no illusions of grandeur or ambition for worldly glory. In fact, Paul tells us that He had willingly emptied Himself of heavenly glory in pursuit of His true passion – His Father's will and our salvation. (*Philippians. 2:7*)

Jesus "set his face like flint" (*Isaiah. 50:7*).

He was on a mission and nothing would deter him. He barrelled through barriers that usually stop us dead in our tracks—fear of ridicule, fear of suffering, abandonment by our closest companions.

He was willing to endure the sting of sin to blot out sin and was eager to face death in order to overcome it. He did indeed have a "well-trained tongue" (*Isaiah. 50:4*).

His words had mesmerised the crowds, intrigued Herod and even made Pilate stop and think. But now his lips are strangely silent.

All the gospels point out that he said very little during his passion, collecting only seven brief statements from the cross. Maybe this was to fulfil the Scripture that said, “like a lamb led to the slaughter or a sheep before the shearers, he was silent and opened not his mouth” (*Isaiah 53: 7*).

Actually, everything that happened in these fateful hours fulfilled Scripture. Isaiah 50 had foretold the beating and mockery. Psalm 22 lays it all out hundreds of years before it happens: his thirst, the piercing of his hands and feet by Gentiles (called “dogs” by the Jews), and the casting of lots for his clothing. The opening line of this psalm happens to be “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Could it be that the Lord uttered this phrase to remind us that this was all in the plan?

So, the virtual silence of his well-trained tongue was to fulfil Scripture.

But there was another reason for his silence. Though Jesus was destined to preach on Good Friday, the message was not to be delivered in words. The language of this sermon was to be “body language.” Good Friday, according to Jewish reckoning, actually began at sundown on Holy Thursday. Therefore, on the beginning of his final day, Jesus gave us the verbal caption of his last and greatest sermon: “This is my body, given for you; this is my blood, which is poured out for you.”

“I love you” is not so much something you say as something you demonstrate. Diamonds may be a moving testimony to love, but the laying down of one’s life is even more compelling.

And though this life is human and therefore vulnerable, it is also divine and therefore infinite in value. A gift so valuable that it outweighs every offence committed from the dawn of time till the end of the world. A gift so powerful that it melts hearts, opens the barred gates of paradise, and makes all things new.

This is offered to the Grapevine readers of King’s Lynn as a reflection upon the readings for Palm or Passion Sunday, liturgical cycle B (Mark 11:1-10; Isaiah 50:4-7; Psalm 22:8-24, Philippians 2:6-11; Mark 14:1-15:47). It commemorates Jesus’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem amidst cries of hosanna only to lead to his suffering on the cross.

Joe Rodriguez

THE DREAM OF THE ROOD



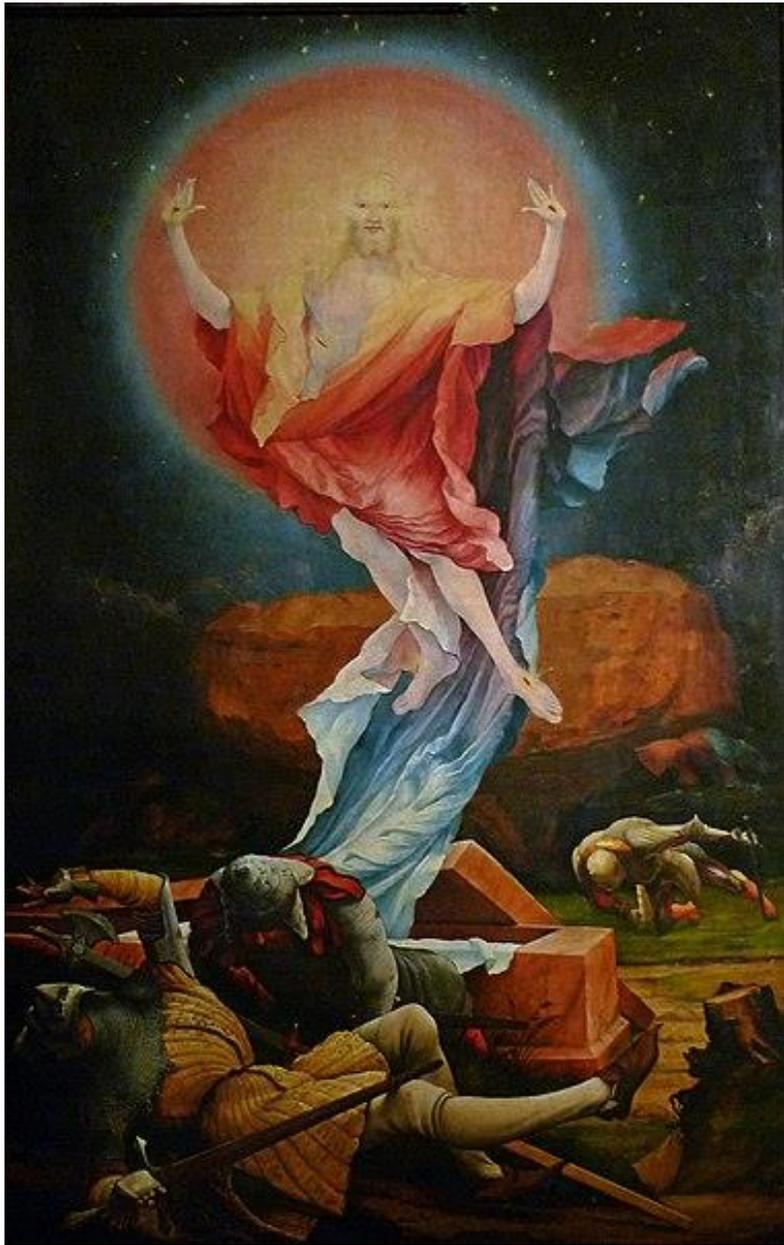
According to the Venerable Bede, **Cædmon was an old lay herdsman** in the religious community of Streanæshalch (Whitby Abbey). He tells us that Cædmon himself never learned to sing. One night, Cædmon, asleep in the stables, was addressed in his dream by “**someone**”, who asked him to sing for him. Caedmon explained that he cannot since he has never learned to do so. When the visitor insists, however, he gives in. Asking for a subject, he is told, “Sing... about the beginning of created things.” Almost immediately he begins his famous Hymn:

THE DREAM OF THE ROOD.

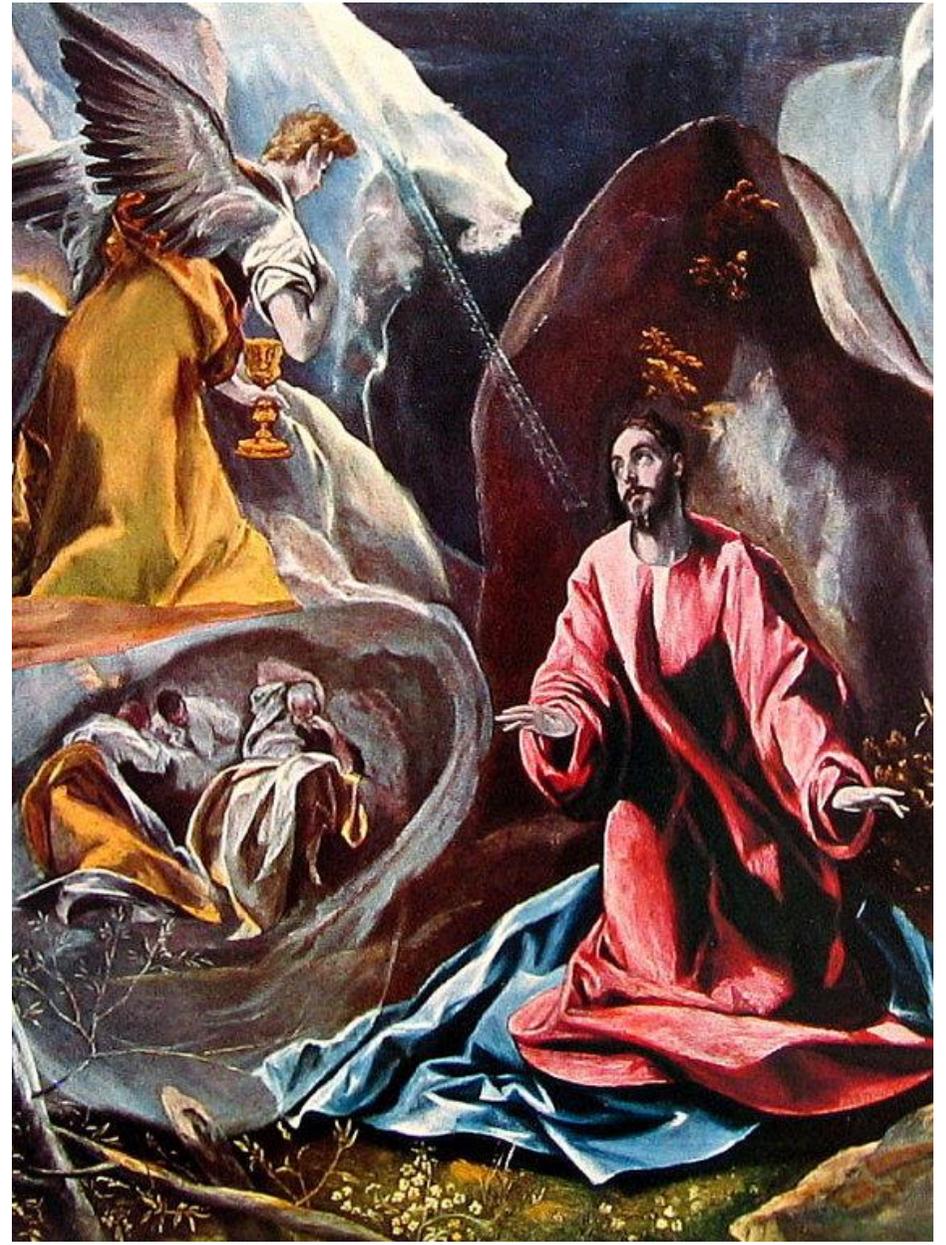
“Listen! The choicest of visions I wish to tell,
which came as a dream in middle-night,
after voice-bearers lay at rest.
It seemed that I saw a most wondrous tree
born aloft, wound round by light,
brightest of beams.

<http://www.lightspill.com/poetry/oe/rood.html>

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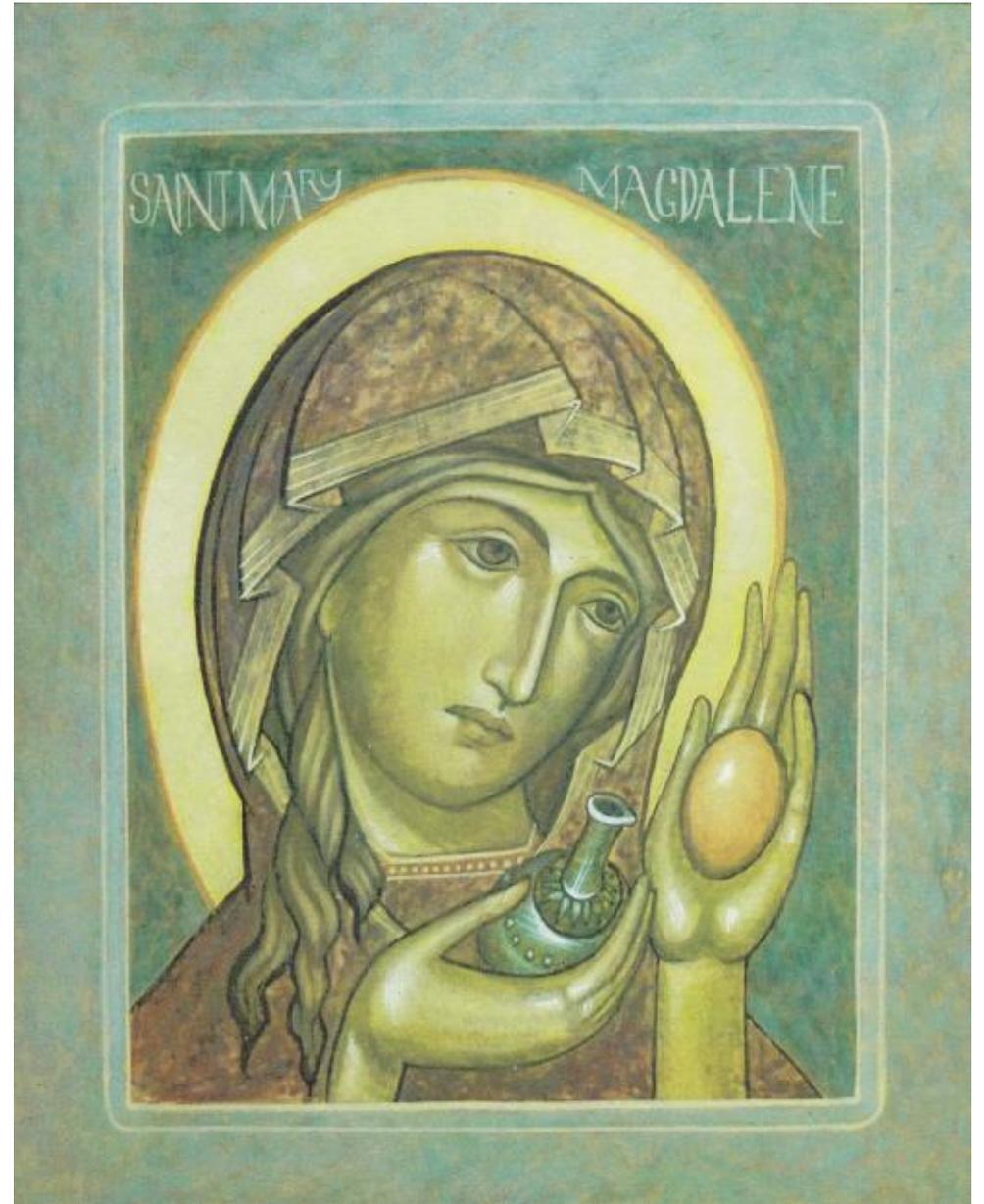
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Mary Magdalene, icon, Jane Nicholson

The Grape Vine NEXT

PUBLICATION DATES

Your Next Edition will be on

5th June 2021

5th September

5th December

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Please let Mrs Lotte Gaberle have your Magazine
Articles at lease 3 weeks before publication.

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A Prayer for Easter

Lord, the resurrection of Your Son has given us new life and renewed hope.

Help us to live as new people in pursuit of the Christian ideal. Help us through this Pandemic. Grant us wisdom to know what we must do, the will to want to do it, the courage to undertake it, the perseverance to continue to do it, and the strength to complete it.

We ask this through
Christ Our Lord.
Amen.

FPM



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