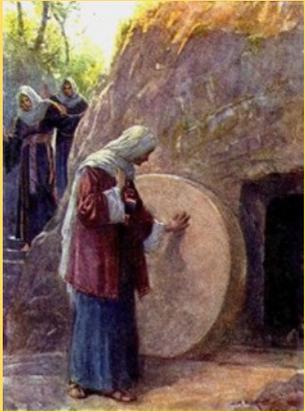


## Reflection The Empty Tomb



They have taken my Lord and I don't know where they have taken him." Mary is every woman, every man. There are inevitably times in our life when we feel the desolation of loss - loss of loved ones, loss of hope, even loss of faith, when the Lord himself does indeed seem to have been taken away from us. But these early stories of the resurrection speak to us of the dynamics of how we come to faith. Peter sees the empty tomb, but says nothing. He needs more time, more experience before he can come to full faith. But he remains open to the possibility.

John is able to cross the threshold of faith by holding his sense of loss and his experience of the emptiness of the tomb on the one hand, and bringing it into connection with his memory of the Lord on the other. That surely is what happens to us in prayer, especially during times of pain and grief: our experience of loss coupled with our "memory" of the Lord as we come to him in prayer somehow leads us to deeper faith. John sees nothing except hints and signs, but this is enough to lead him to believe. Mary sees the emptiness and goes on searching. It is her persevering love of the Lord that leads her to be the first to encounter him in person, when she hears Jesus speak her name and he then sends her as the apostle to the apostles, to bring them the news of his resurrection.

An empty tomb is not proof of resurrection. Religious scholars may argue over it, but our faith does not rest on physical proof. "The life you have is hidden with Christ in God," Paul tells the Colossians. It's not in the tomb that we will find the proof we seek. The resurrection - our encounter with the risen Lord - can actually only happen within the hidden chamber of our own hearts. That is where we meet him today - in our searching, in our prayer, in our pain and in our persevering love.

**Fr. Paul prays that you may all have a wonderful Easter Celebration.**

**He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!**



**SATURDAY 11th April**

**Vigil Mass 4.00 pm**

**SUNDAY 12th April**

**Mass 9.30 am**

LENT 2020 (Year A)

<b>Holy Saturday</b>	<b>11th</b>	<b>Easter Vigil Mass 4 pm</b>	<b>Peter Mahler Anniv RIP</b>
<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>	<b>12th</b>	<b>Solemnity of the Resurrection of the Lord</b>	<b>9.30 am</b>
Easter Monday	13th	Solemnity	Mass 10 am George Shepperson RIP
Easter Tuesday	14th	Solemnity	Mass 10 am Jeremy Heath seriously ill
Easter Wednesday	15th	Solemnity	Mass 10 am For all Key Workers in GB
Easter Thursday	16th	Solemnity	Mass 10 am those with Covid-19
Easter Friday	17th	Solemnity	Mass 10 am Nash & Leckington families
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>18th</b>	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (Divine Mercy Sunday)</b>	<b>Vigil Mass 4 pm</b> parishioners

**Next Week : Saturday 19th April 2020 Vigil Mass 4 pm  
and SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER 29th March Mass at 9.30am**



**ST. BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Owen Street, Atherstone  
Warwickshire, CV9 1DG  
Parish Priest: Fr. Paul R. Lomas  
E mail: [Stbenedict.atherstone@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:Stbenedict.atherstone@rcaob.org.uk)  
Tel No: 01827 736286  
[www.saintbenedictscatherstone.com](http://www.saintbenedictscatherstone.com)

## Reflection

*As long as the sun comes over the hills,  
scatters the darkness, and fills the world with light;  
as long as the fields get green again,  
and the primroses and violets return;  
as long as the trees fill up again with leaves,  
there is hope for us and the world.  
So come, let us follow the footsteps of spring,  
for the snow has melted,  
and life is awakening from its sleep  
and wanders through the hills and valleys.  
Come, let us ascend the heights  
and gaze upon the waving greenness of the plains below.  
O come, let us rejoice on this Easter Day,*



IF ANYONE IS STRUGGLING TO FIND THE LIVE FACEBOOK PAGE. THEN LET ME KNOW BY A PHONE CALL AND I'LL PASS YOU ON TO JO A PARISHIONER WHO CAN HELP YOU GET IT.

### DISPENSATION FROM EASTER DUTIES

"In these emergency circumstances, and for as long as they last, the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is removed. The pandemic is the 'serious reason' why the obligation does not apply at this time."

Since it is not possible for the faithful to receive Holy Communion at this time, and into the future, we have been dispensed from the Easter Duties for the year 2020. We should all make a Perfect Act of Contrition at this time. Perfect Contrition is a true and real sorrow for our sins.

### AN ACT OF CONTRITION

*My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Saviour Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.*

## Latest on St. Benedict's during this shutdown due to COVID-19.

Sadly the doors to St. Benedict's have to remain locked for the foreseeable future. This doesn't mean that Mass is not being offered at the altar. Each day Fr. Paul says the Mass of the day and then he places it on Facebook. If you're not on Facebook I'm sure you know someone who is. Search for Paul Roy Lomas. There are two sites and I keep them both upto date with prayers and thoughts as well as comments from other followers.

**MASS NOW LIVE ON  
FACEBOOK  
(PAUL ROY LOMAS)  
AT THE TIMES SHOWN.**



Fr. Paul, here I am just so you don't forget what I look like as you can't join me for Mass in church. Although you can see me, if you click onto the videos uploaded on my Facebook pages..... Just remember I am still saying my prayers every day, especially for you.

## PRAYER FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND

May the Communion we share today with the members of our parish family who are at home or in hospital, remind us to live for one another and give them a sense of belonging to our family

**We now have in the porch printed Mass request Envelopes on which you can write the details of your mass request and place your mass offering inside. Fr. Paul has no outstanding Masses.**

## Your weekly offering for the Up-Keep of St. Benedict's.

Those of you who make a weekly cash offering are not able to do so now. Can I suggest you either download a Direct debit form from the Diocesan Website. If not that put your money in the weekly envelope and bring them to Mass when we can all meet again. Can I suggest that you hold on to the Easter Offering for Fr. Paul until we are back together again. Thank you.