



Faith at Home

Growing Faith | Week 2 | 6 April 2020

Teenager's Tip

Be 'whole' in Holy Week!

As I look at the Easter story, I think it is very much a story of giving. Jesus gave his life for us so that we could share the gift of his forgiveness with others. At the difficult season we are all in now, it may seem very hard to find things to do. But I think it is very important that we try to find that we focus on ways we can give to others in our community. Recently, my brothers and I made some cards for the neighbours. We didn't do this for ourselves but in blessing the community we got phone calls back with many thanks. This made us feel great too, even though that wasn't our intention.

This week is Holy Week, the lead up to Easter Sunday. I wonder what you might be able to do to make yourself feel whole this week. Making those cards made us feel whole and very happy, so I encourage you too to find something to do for others that in return makes you feel whole. Just as Jesus did on the cross, let's do it humbly and with God's love. This week, we are planning to make Easter crosses with lolly pop sticks and an Easter tree to hang prayers up on. Maybe you could try some of these? But above all else, stay positive and remember God is in control.

Have a great week.

Year 11 Pupil – Grace Hands



Thought for the week

Holy Week By Father Chris Holden

Friends, this week is Holy Week, the most important week of the Christian Year. This week we recall the saving events of our Lord's Passion, death and Resurrection.

This week we began remembering Jesus entering the city of Jerusalem on the back of a donkey, the servant king arriving to cries of 'Hosanna to the Son of David', as people throw branches before his feet.

This week we remember Jesus in the Upper Room with his disciples, Jesus taking bread and wine, blessing and sharing them, 'do this in remembrance of me' he tells them. We remember Jesus too, washing their feet, setting an example of humble, loving service, underpinning that Christ came 'not to be served, but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many'.

This week we remember that dark, tragic day, Good Friday. The day on which Jesus, betrayed, falsely accused, brutally beaten and humiliated, willingly goes to the cross, 'not my will be done, but yours' he says, and 'Father forgive them, they know not what they do'. Jesus sheds his blood to cleanse and heal, to wash away the iniquities of the world. On the cross we 'behold the Lamb' whom John the Baptist prophesied would take away the sins of the world.

This week we remember, with great joy and celebration, Easter! Alleluia, Christ is risen, he is risen indeed alleluia! We remember that the cross and the tomb were not the end of the story, no, new life was to come. Mary went expecting to anoint a departed friend but instead she was greeted by the Risen Lord of Life! We remember that that new life is promised to us too in faithfulness to his teaching.

But this Holy Week 2020, is going to be very different. The doors of our churches here in Lancashire and across the world are going to be closed. Normally wide open, welcoming Christians to worship these sacred days, they have to be closed because of Covid-19. That's challenging, bewildering for some, and sad. But it has to be this way, and we have to try our best to worship in our homes in a different way this year. I know here in my own parish I'm trying different ways to unite us together, though separated we might be.

I am reminded of a powerful line from the Gospel accounts of the Passion, just after Jesus has breathed his last and died, the gospel writers quickly move on to tell us something quite amazing, that 'the curtain of the temple was torn in two, top to bottom'. That's powerful. This tells us that death is not the end to this story, it is part of it. It tells us that here is a new covenant with God in the shedding of Christ's blood. Our God is no longer 'enclosed' in a temple, set aside for a chosen nation, no, he is the living God who wants to embrace us all in Jesus Christ. The temple is thrown wide open.

This image is powerful for me this Holy Week 2020, as an image it reminds me that the doors of our church buildings might be closed, but the gates of God's Kingdom are wide open! God's kingdom of justice, of peace and of joy in the Holy Spirit, to quote St Paul, never close, his gateway is wide, wide open. A kingdom that promises new and eternal life, a kingdom we are called to enter and embrace daily in our hearts, wherever and whoever we are.

With every blessing these holy days. Keep safe and keep joyful and faithful to Jesus, whose passion death and wondrous resurrection we celebrate at Easter.

Sunday 7pm School Song

Why not sing this as we light our candles together!

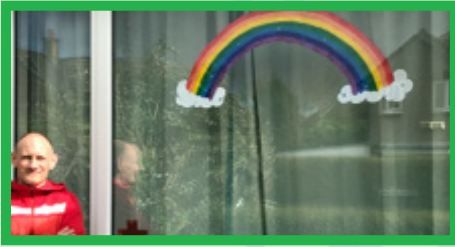


**“He is not here; he has risen,
just as he said. Come and see
the place where he lay.”**

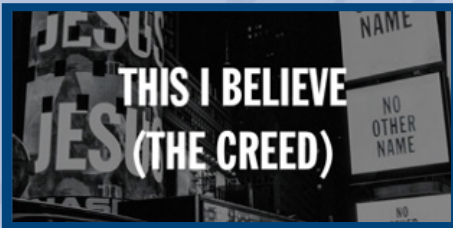
Matthew 28:6

Diocesan Bishop, Rt Rev. Julian Henderson, the Bishop of Blackburn, is encouraging every Christian home in Lancashire, of all denominations, to make a cross in the best way they can and place it in their window, leaving it there throughout Holy Week. Why not join in?

This one is from Mr Pountain's house:



Song of the Week



[This I Believe \(The Creed\)](#)

As we reflect on the pain and suffering endured by Jesus and the amazing victory of his resurrection, let's remind ourselves of who it is that we can worship.

Prayers for the Week

Written by our Head of English, Mr Young:

Easter is a time of joy, but the real joy and light of Easter Sunday comes because of the contrast with the desolation and darkness of Good Friday. The transformation of those three days are marked in our churches, but it is important that while we are unable to go to church or to worship at school, we are still aware of that important transition from the despair of sin to the joy of salvation offered by Jesus' death. I hope that you will use the first prayer on Good Friday and the second on Easter Sunday. Let's pray too that soon the darkness of this disease will give way to freedom and light.

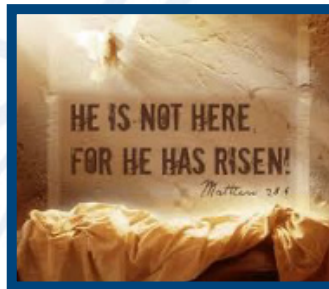
Good Friday

Almighty Father,
We pray that you will look with mercy upon us,
your family, for whom
Our Lord Jesus Christ gave up his life into the
hands of wicked men.
He suffered death but is alive and glorified.
Give your people hope in our pain that we too
will come through into the glorious light of
your love.
In the name of Jesus, we pray.
Amen.



Easter Sunday

Lord of all life and power,
Through the resurrection of Jesus, your son,
You overcame the power of death and sin,
And opened to us the gates of heaven.
We thank you for this glorious Easter
and pray that we would always live in the
knowledge of your love.
We offer this prayer through Jesus Christ our
Lord.
Amen.



Church Support

In this season of Easter, we are still able to connect to each other and with church. Here are links to some alternative services and ways to contact some of our School Chaplains or their Churches. You are not alone!

Revd Ian Enticott: Accrington St. James and St. Paul, find their YouTube Channel [here](#)

Revd Hugh Scriven: Huncoat St. John's and Augustine's is happy to send news, some written prayers and Bible reflections each week to anyone upon request. Please email him [here](#)

Revd Mark Pickett: Clitheroe St. James, Virtual Prayer Space and weekly online services can be found [here](#)

Father Chris Holden: Rishton St Peter's and St Paul's is happy for you to get in touch with him use this [email](#)

A Church Near You: A website to help you find out what is going on in a Church local to you. Follow this [link](#).

East Lancashire Ecumenical Stations of the Cross: An opportunity to reflect, can be found [here](#).

Further links will be provided in future weekly bulletins.



📍 **Queens Road West
Accrington
Lancashire
BB5 4AY**

☎ **01254 232 992**
📠 **01254 355 215**
✉ **c.pountain@st-christophers.org**
🌐 **www.st-christophers.org**

