

FROM THE RECTOR...

*EASTER IS NO APRIL FOOLS' DAY...OR IS IT?*



Easter Day and April Fools' Day on the same day...really? The last time this occurred was 1956...it won't happen again until 2029! Should we celebrate the humor in this? Absolutely! God has a sense of humor...so should we!

The first recorded mention of April 1<sup>st</sup> being a day on which to play practical jokes can be found in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. By 1700 playing practical jokes on unsuspecting "fools" became popular. The jokes are supposed to be good-natured and the prankster reveals his joke by shouting "April Fools".

We began our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday and that led us to the foot of the cross. There is nothing funny about the Crucifixion...Good Friday is not a practical joke. But there is "foolishness" in the very idea of God dying on the cross...it boggles our minds...it is the "Divine Reversal"...God turns our heartbreak into joy...darkness and death into light and life through Jesus.

The word "fool" has many meanings in the Old Testament...from a naïve but teachable person to the person who is so far gone any effort to reach him would be fruitless. In Psalm 14.1 we read, "only a fool says in his heart there is no God". "Foolishness" in the OT is the same as Godlessness and opposed to the "wisdom" of believers.

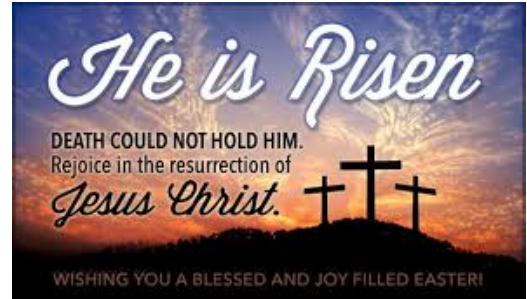
In the New Testament "fool" has a negative meaning. Jesus warns against calling someone a "fool" (St. Matthew 5.22)...essentially calling that person worthless and unredeemable...because we presume to know what is in that person's heart. Only God really knows what is in our hearts and has the right to call someone a "fool".

Saint Paul does talk about us being "fools for Christ" in his famous "tough love" letter to the misbehaving Corinthians. The world judges Christians "foolish" for what we believe about Jesus. Paul's play on the word "fool" makes it a positive...it's OK for us to be "fools for Christ".

The real "joke" is on those who think Jesus is a myth and died once and for all on the first Good Friday. Guess what...he's back...just like he promised! Alleluia, the Lord is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Happy April Fools' Day! Happy Easter!

Father Craig Looney+



1 APRIL 2018  
EASTER DAY

7:30 AM – VIGIL, LOW MASS & SERMON

THE EARLY MASS OF EASTER IS A  
LOW OR SAID MASS...THE LITURGY BEGINS  
IN DARKNESS WITH THE STRIKING  
OF THE NEW FIRE, CHANTING OF  
THE EXULTET AND BLESSING AND  
LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

9:00 AM – SUNG MASS & SERMON

THE PRINCIPAL MASS OF EASTER IS A  
SUNG MASS...FOLLOWED BY  
COFFEE HOUR AND FELLOWSHIP  
IN YOUNG-WHEELER HALL



LOW SUNDAY...

The First Sunday after Easter is often called "Low Sunday"...especially within Anglicanism? "Low" is a relative term...certainly when compared to the "High" of the festiveness and ceremonial of Easter Day...and the lower attendance often seen on Low Sunday. But it is still Eastertide...so let the celebration continue!

## THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE BVM...



The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 25 March (*Book of Common Prayer, Page 235-236*), always falls during Lent or Passiontide. This year it falls on Palm Sunday, which according to the Tables of Precedence (*Book of Common Prayer, Page li*) all of the Sundays in Lent, all the days of Holy Week, Easter Day and the seven following days, take precedence over the Annunciation. The rubric states any such Holy Day shall be transferred to the "first convenient open day"...which this year is 9 April.

## SAINT GEORGE THE MARTYR...

Saint George was born in Nicodemia, Bythnia, in the Roman Province of Asia Minor...present-day Turkey. His parents were of the nobility...his father was a Roman Army official from Cappadocia in central Turkey and his mother was from Lydda in present-day Syria. Little is known of George's early years. George's father died when he was fourteen and his mother died a few years later.



According to legend, George was an officer in the Palace Guard of the Roman emperor Diocletian. In 303 AD, Diocletian embarked on a bloody campaign to exterminate Christianity. He issued an edict requiring every Roman soldier under the penalty of death to offer sacrifices to the Roman gods...demanding soldiers who were Christians recant the faith or face death.

After reading the edict...George freed his slaves..gave away his wealth to the poor...and was resolved to meet death head on. He confronted Diocletian...confessed his Christian faith...was arrested and subsequently beheaded. Diocletian's efforts to eradicate Christianity from the Roman Empire were not successful. In 312 AD the new emperor Constantine embraced Christianity and declared it the faith of the Roman Empire.

The cult of Saint George and his legendary exploits developed soon after his martyrdom. He has been the patron saint of England since the 14<sup>th</sup> Century...his cross forms the flag of England. His feast day is 23 April and one of the few feast days to survive the elimination of most saints days following the English Reformation.

Saint George is quite often depicted in art dressed as a knight on horseback with sword in hand and slaying a dragon. There are many stories about Saint George and the

Dragon. In Christian art...the dragon symbolizes Satan...who tries to get us to turn away from Christ. Saint George resisted evil and died a martyrs death and through his example we may learn how to resist Satan and his tricks.



*The 1914 Gold Sovereign of King George V depicts Saint George and the Dragon on the reverse of the coin.*

## CALL PRIMROSE...



CALL Primrose (CALL = Christian Action Lifeline) is a non-profit corporation providing free grocery assistance to low-income individuals and families in San Mateo County. Saint Joseph Parish collects non-perishable food and other items each month which we deliver to CALL. This is our primary outreach into the community.

For the past several months we have been collecting food from CALL's "Most Wanted Items" list. During the Month of April we will be collecting peanut butter...any size or kind. Please bring your food contributions to Mass on Sunday. You may also drop them by the church during the week...please call the Parish Office first to make certain someone is here to receive your donation.

## THE GOOD SHEPHERD...

The Second Sunday after Easter is called Good Shepherd Sunday...a name it gets from the Gospel. (St. John 10.11-19).



In his commentary for this day in *The Oxford American Prayer Book Commentary*, Father Massey Shepherd notes in the early days of the Church as it faced persecution the most common representation of Jesus in Christian art was the figure of the Good Shepherd.

In the icon above the lamb looks lovingly at Jesus who carries it on his shoulders...and holds its legs by his hands...so it won't fall. The lamb knows it is safe and secure from harm. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who takes care of his sheep...and we are his sheep.

This same Gospel is read at the Ordination of a man to the Priesthood...it underscores his sacred duty as a shepherd to watch over the sheep of Christ...they are the great treasure he is to love and they are to love him.

Jesus the Good Shepherd is perhaps the most comforting image we have of him in Holy Scripture.

Page 3

## THE SABBATH DAY WAS BY...



...is "An Easter Carol for children" by Father Howard Chandler Robbins (1876-1952), from his book of poems, *Vita Nova*, 1929. This little book is still in print and available from a number of sources.

The tune *Dexter Street* was composed by The Reverend Canon Charles Winfred

Douglas (1867-1944), whose photograph appears above, early in 1940 especially for this hymn. It derives its name from the street on which he lived in Denver, Colorado. He was married twice. His first wife, Mary, was a physician and died in 1938. His second wife, Anne, greatly assisted him with his writing in his later years. She died in 1985.

"The Sabbath day was by" (*Hymn #100, Hymnal 1940*) is not a well-known hymn and not often sung. It is one of the Rector's favorite hymns and normally sung on the First Sunday after Easter. The hymn is a wonderful journey taking us from the sadness Mary Magdalene and the disciples felt when Jesus died to the glad surprise when he appears to them again.

The life and work of Father Douglas is well-documented. His musical interests were not limited to the church. From 1937 to 1941 he was program annotator for the Denver Symphony Orchestra, as well as a member of its governing board.

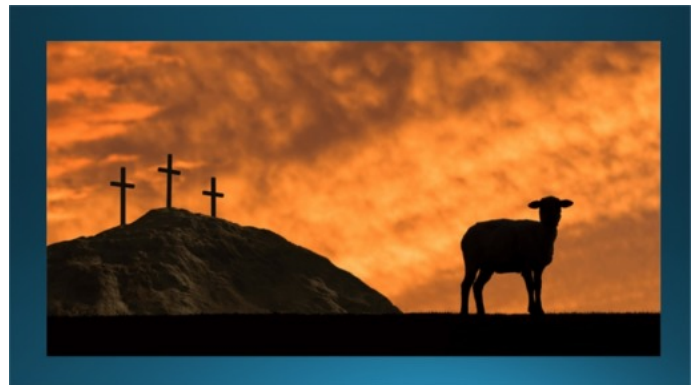
Father Douglas was chosen to be musical editor for the *Hymnal 1940*. His corrections for the final proofs were returned to the printer the day before he died. His contribution to the *Hymnal 1940* cannot be overstated. He was the translator, joint translator, composer or arranger of 31 of the hymns, all of the Plainsongs, and the arranger of the Merbecke and Missa Marialis Mass settings.

Father Douglas has been described as a great and compassionate pastor..."a Catholic in every sense of the word, a member of the Universal Church who was happily at home in all parts of it..."

On the eve of his death, he awoke to begin work on composing an organ prelude, based on the tune *Stuttgart (Hymn #1, Hymnal 1940)*. He worked on it the next day and completed it before he died early that evening 18 January 1944. He began his career dedicated to the Praise of God. He ended his life with the Praise of God on his mind, pen and in his heart.

(*The Hymnal Companion*)

## THE EASTER CANTICLE...



CHRIST our Passover is sacrificed for us: therefore let us keep the feast,  
Not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness: but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. 1 Cor. v. 7.

CHRIST being raised from the dead dieth no more: death hath no more dominion over him.  
For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.  
Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin: but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Rom. vi. 9.

CHRIST is risen from the dead: and become the firstfruits of them that slept.  
For since by man came death: by man came also the resurrection of the dead.  
For as in Adam all die: even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 1 Cor. xv. 20.

GLORY be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.



The Easter canticle "Christ our Passover" consists of three anthems drawn from Holy Scripture. It was Archbishop Cranmer's intent the canticle be sung in procession.

The rubric on Page 162 of the *Book of Common Prayer* appoints the canticle be said or sung in place of the Venite at Morning Prayer on Easter Day...and it may be said or sung throughout the Octave.

It has long been the practice at Saint Joseph Parish to sing the canticle as a Post-Communion chant on Easter Day and throughout the Easter Season.



### *A PRAYER FOR PARISH GROWTH*

*O GOD, WHO KNOWEST THE NEED OF ALL THY CREATURES, AND DOST BESTOW THE FAVOUR OF THY GRACE ALIKE UPON THE HUMBLE AND THE GREAT; BE WITH US IN ALL OUR ENDEAVORS DEVOTED TO THY SERVICE, AND GRANT US, WE BESEECH THEE, SUCH INCREASE OF NUMBERS AND OF MEANS AS WILL SECURE THIS HOUSE OF PRAYER TO THE WORSHIP AND GLORY OF THY SON, OUR SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST, WHO LIVETH AND REIGNETH WITH THEE AND THE HOLY GHOST, ONE GOD, WORLD WITHOUT END. AMEN.*

*(Editor's Note: Special thanks go to Bishop McClean for sending us the Prayer for Church Growth)*

### SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS — 9:00 AM SUNG MASS & SERMON  
COFFEE HOUR & DISCUSSION GROUP

WEEKDAYS AS ANNOUNCED

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE BY APPOINTMENT

THE REVEREND FATHER CRAIG LOONEY, RECTOR

*THE CONTINUATION OF ANGLICANISM We affirm that the Church of our fathers, sustained by the most Holy Trinity, lives yet...are determined to continue in the Catholic Faith, Apostolic Order, Orthodox Worship and Evangelical Witness of the traditional Anglican Church.*



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