

RECTOR'S THOUGHTS...

THE LORD IS RISEN...HE IS RISEN INDEED!



"The Lord is risen...He is risen indeed!" It has long been customary for Catholic Christians to greet each other with these words after Mass on Easter Day. Sometimes called the "Paschal Greeting"...it is ultimately based on Luke 24.34..."The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon."

The greeting is very old and first became popular in the liturgies of the Eastern Orthodox and Byzantine Catholic communities. It didn't become common in the Western Church until later.

When we greet each other in this manner we're not saying empty words. We're making a statement we believe to be truthful..."Jesus has risen from the dead and is ALIVE AGAIN." We remind ourselves the death of Jesus wasn't an empty action either. He has the power to overcome death and make possible our own resurrections to eternal life.

There are several dialogues between the Celebrant and Congregation that take place during the Mass. For example, the Celebrant says, "The Lord be with you." And the people respond, "And with thy spirit." This dialogue is itself quite old...well established in the Liturgy by the Fourth Century. The "spirit" referred to is the Spirit of God who is the source of our life and the one who empowers us as a Christian Community to share the special love we have for each other which is what this dialogue is really about.

The Paschal Greeting is different from the dialogues like the one above that take place during the Mass. Instead of the customary "Good Morning" or "Hello" we often greet each other with after Mass...we greet each other with the words "The Lord is risen" or "Christ is risen" and respond "He is risen indeed!" And we often add "Alleluia".

Let's not hold back sharing our joy and happiness at the Resurrection of Jesus...the "first fruits" of our own resurrections to eternal life. The hymns we sing during the Easter Season tell us to shout out the Good News to the whole world...Jesus Christ is risen today! The celebration begins in our hearts with what we know to be true...

...THE LORD IS RISEN...HE IS RISEN INDEED!

Father Craig Looney ☩



EASTER DAY – 21 APRIL

7:00 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 THE PARISH HALL

LOW SUNDAY...

Anglicans call the First Sunday after Easter "Low Sunday". In most parishes there is less solemnity in the celebration of the Mass and attendance is often lower than Easter Day. However, Easter doesn't end on Easter Day.



The Easter Season commences on Easter Day (or at the Easter Vigil in parishes where it is celebrated) and continues until Pentecost. We celebrate Easter with great joy for fifty days. The Alleluia reappears after having been "buried" on the Last Sunday after the Epiphany. The Gloria in excelsis is again sung during the Liturgy. Easter lillies...a symbol of the Resurrection...decorate the church.

We soon realize "Low Sunday" isn't so low after all. We're celebrating the Resurrection and still say "He is risen!". Low Sunday...not! How about calling it "High Sunday"...after all every Sunday is a celebration of the Resurrection!

FATHER JOHN MASON NEALE...

In previous editions of *The Parish Times* we have explored the life and work of the Saints of God (*Hymn #243, The Hymnal 1940*) whose special gift has been music. With this edition this will be a regular feature of *The Parish Times*.



One such Saint was Father John Mason Neale. His music legacy is substantially represented in *The Hymnal 1940* in the 39 hymns he authored or translated, four of which we sing during the Easter Season:

- 93 *Thou hallowed chosen morn of praise*
- 94 *Come, ye faithful, raise the strain*
- 96 *The day of resurrection*
- 99 *O sons and daughters, let us sing*

John Mason Neale was born in London on 24 January 1818. He was described as a shy, sickly and devout child. He was ordained deacon in 1841 and priest in 1842. He briefly served as parish priest at Crawley in Sussex. His poor health kept him from continuing in that position. In 1846 he became warden of Sackville College, an almshouse in East Grinstead. The college still exists and provides housing for the poor and elderly, its current warden continuing the work Father Neale began there.

Father Neale spent the rest of his life at Sackville College devoted to literary and scholarly activity. He also founded a religious order for women, the Society of Saint Margaret, dedicated to the care of sick and homeless women. Today the sisters have outreach ministries in schools, prisons, hospitals, homeless shelters and some parish churches.

The Oxford Movement had a profound affect on Father Neale and he spent much of his remaining years quietly advancing the Catholic Revival in the English Church. He was particularly interested in church architecture and the restoration of parish churches to their former glory in which the Mass was again celebrated with reverence and dignity.

Father Neale's character was described as a "happy mixture of gentleness and firmness" which eventually won him much love and respect. His health deteriorated early in 1866 and after five months of acute pain and suffering he died at the age of 48 on 6 August, the Feast of the Transfiguration. He is buried in Saint Swithun's Churchyard, East Grinstead, near Sackville College.

(Sources: *The Hymnal Companion* © 1949, 1951 *The Church Pension Fund*; *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* © 1997 Oxford University Press; et al.)

A MORNING PRAYER

LORD, IN THE QUIET OF THIS MORNING HOUR
I COME TO THEE FOR PEACE, FOR WISDOM, POWER
TO VIEW THE WORLD TODAY THROUGH LOVE-FILLED EYES;
BE PATIENT, UNDERSTANDING, GENTLE, WISE;
LET ME SO KINDLY BE, SO FULL OF CHEER,
THAT ALL I MEET MAY FEEL THY PRESENCE NEAR.
O CLOTHE ME IN THY BEAUTY, THIS I PRAY,
LET ME REVEAL THEE, LORD, THROUGH ALL THE DAY. AMEN.

(Phil Mancini shared this wonderful prayer given to him by his mother. We incorporated it into our Lenten Thursday Morning Prayer. Thank you, Phil.)

THE ROGATION DAYS...



The Rogation Days are the three days preceding the Ascension Day. The *Book of Common Prayer* (Page 261-263) provides a Collect, Epistle and Gospel for the Rogation Days. The Fifth Sunday after Easter is called Rogation Sunday...a name it gets from the Rogation Days.

Rogation Days are days of prayer and fasting in preparation for the Feast of the Ascension. The word *rogation* comes from the Latin verb *rogare*...to ask. It was also customary for farmers to have their crops blessed by the parish priest...asking God to protect the land and provide for a bountiful harvest.

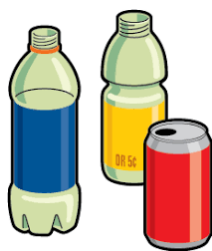
On the Rogation Days parishioners would form a procession and proceed to all corners of the parish praying for its protection during the coming year. This custom...called *beating the bounds*...survives in some Anglican parishes today.

Our custom at Saint Joseph Parish is to bless the Saint Francis Garden immediately following the Parish Mass on Rogation Sunday, 26 May this year. Parishioners are invited to bring a small plant from home, which will also be blessed.

The counterpart to the Rogations Days is Thanksgiving Day...on which we primarily give thanks to God for the food on our table. While we're asking God to supply us with our daily needs...we shouldn't forget to thank him for the many blessings he has already given us...our life, our health, our food. We can start by thanking him for the brand new day as soon as we wake up in the morning.

CANS FOR GOD...

Don't forget you can bring your aluminum cans and plastic (and now glass) bottles to the church for recycling. We take them to the recycling center and turn them in for cash. Please place your aluminum cans and plastic and glass bottles in separate bags and bring them to the church on Sunday or by arrangement with the Rector during the week.



CALL PRIMROSE...



During **April** we will be collecting peanut butter...any size or variety...for CALL Primrose. During **May** we will be collecting Jello and pudding boxed mixes...or shelf-stable varieties. Please bring your contributions to the church on Sunday or by arrangement with the

Rector during the week.

Aunt Marie's Bran Muffins...



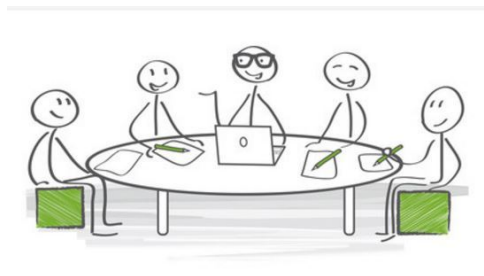
Long time parishioner Marie Adams, who died in February, was known for her famous bran muffins that often graced the table at Sunday Coffee Hour. In a thoughtful gesture of remembrance, her family presented each person who attended her Requiem with a small bag of her famous muffins and the recipe:

4 eggs
1 quart buttermilk
5 cups flour
3 cups sugar
5 tsp baking soda
2 tsp salt
1 cup oil
1 15 oz box of Raisin Bran (about 9 cups)

In a large bowl beat eggs, blend with buttermilk.
Add flour, sugar, soda and salt. Mix well.
Mix in brsn flakes.
Allow batter to set for 24 hours in the refrigerator.
Spray muffin pans with Pam.
Half fill muffin pans with batter.
Bake @ 400 degrees for 15-18 minutes.

Make yourself a cup of tea and enjoy.

VESTRY MEETING...



The next Vestry Meeting is scheduled for Sunday 5 May at 10:30 AM in the Classroom. This is a regular Vestry meeting and open to all interested parishioners. On the Sundays Vestry meetings are held the Discussion Group does not meet.



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 SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST, WHO LIVETH AND REIGNETH WITH THEE AND THE HOLY GHOST, ONE GOD, WORLD WITHOUT END. AMEN.

SCHEDULE

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

WEEKDAYS/HOLY DAYS 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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