

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord – 20th April 2025

	Gospel John 20:1-9	First Reading Acts 10:34.37-43	Second Reading Colossians 3:1-4
Context	After Jesus had been crucified, his body was wrapped and placed in a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. The entrance to the tomb had been sealed with a large stone so that no one could steal the body and claim Jesus had been raised from the dead.	The Book of Acts provides an accurate account of the birth and growth of the early Christian Church. Influenced by the Holy Spirit, it connects the life of Jesus with the Gospels and the Letters contained within the New Testament.	Paul wrote to believers of the early Christian Church to show them that they have everything they need in Christ. Paul wrote his letter during a time in which he had been imprisoned for his faith.
Key verses	<i>“...he saw and he believed”</i> <i>“...he must rise from the dead”</i>	<i>“God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power...”</i>	<i>“Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on earth”</i>
Key themes/ messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus could have easily left the tomb without moving the stone. Instead, the stone was rolled away so others could enter and see that Jesus was gone. • Before witnessing the absence of Jesus’ body from the tomb, the disciples did not understand his plan to rise from the dead, even though it had been predicted in the Old Testament. • Jesus’ resurrection is the key to our Christian faith. It shows us that Jesus fulfills his promises for our sake. Just as Jesus was resurrected, we can be sure of our own resurrection and look forward to the future life Jesus promised us. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter’s powerful sermon contains a concise account of the Gospel, including Jesus’ perfect life of doing good and healing, his death on the cross and most importantly, his resurrection. • As Peter had personally witnessed the events he spoke to others about, he could confidently speak about Christ with an enormous degree of credibility and authority. • Jesus’ fulfillment of the scriptures for the sake of our sins shows that we can have complete faith in him. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking “...for the things that are in heaven...” is about putting God’s priorities into daily practice. • “Let your thoughts be on heavenly things...” teaches us to think about life from God’s perspective. All too often, we try to take comfort from “...things that are on earth...” without realising how little value they have compared to a personal relationship with Jesus. • Jesus gives us power to live for him now. He also gives us hope for the future because we can be confident that he will return, as promised.
Questions/ application to our lives	The divine power that brought Jesus back to life is freely available to us to bring our spiritually dead selves back to life. In what way are we nourishing our spiritual faith in Christ in the meantime? Are we doing enough to develop a close personal relationship with God through prayer?	The Book of Acts clearly shows us that a powerful message about faith in Christ can be delivered with just a few well-chosen words. With this in mind, how often do you talk about Jesus’ life, death and resurrection, for example, with friends and family?	What does Paul’s letter teach us about God’s values compared to the things we often value in our daily lives? Do you put God first in your daily life? Or do you put “earthly” values above the much greater promise of a future life with God in heaven?
Further reading	Catechism 638-655	Catechism 989, 1001-1002	Catechism 1212