

## Here's a text if you've only a minute ...

We are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead.

*First Reading*

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.

*Second Reading*

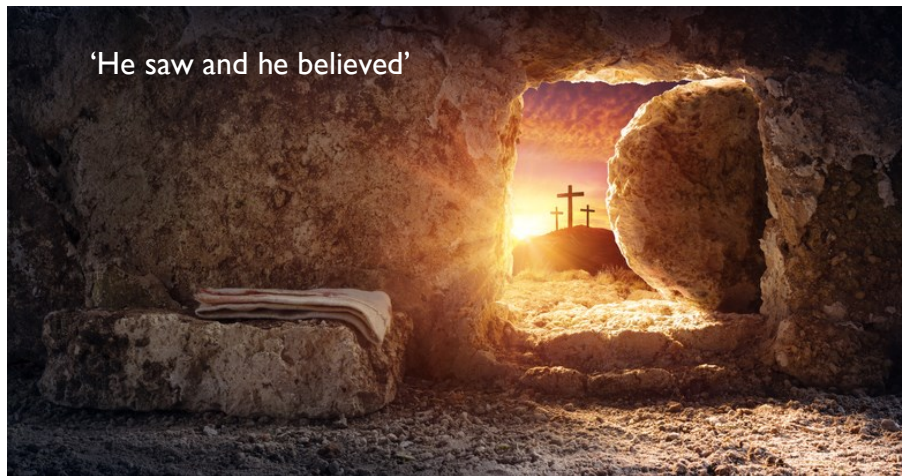
Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

*Gospel*

God our Father,  
by raising your Son  
you conquered the power of death  
and opened for us the way to eternal life.  
Let our celebration today  
raise us up and renew our lives  
by the Spirit that is within us.

*Old Opening Prayer*

This week's texts if you'd like to reflect further:  
Acts 10: 34.37–43; Psalm 117 (118); 1 Corinthians 5: 6–8; John 20: 1–9



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**ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM**



Easter Sunday,  
Year B, 31st March 2024

Christ, our hope, is risen!  
Alleluia!

We greet this day with thanksgiving and praise. Christ our hope is risen and we want to announce it by our life and our joy.

This is how we see Peter in the **First Reading**. He is addressing Cornelius and his household, recounting Jesus's life and death, and how, as a witness to it, Peter has been ordered to proclaim Christ's resurrection to his people.

St Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians (**Second Reading**), encourages us with the practical example of getting rid of the old yeast, to be completely renewed through Christ, in sincerity and truth.

The **Psalm** is a joyful Easter song celebrating Christ's triumph. It will be a refrain for us throughout the season.

In the **Gospel**, after Mary of Magdala finds the stone rolled away from the tomb, she runs to tell Peter and John. By seeing the empty tomb and the discarded cloths, they slowly come to realise that Jesus has truly risen.

Let us pray that we, too, will witness to the resurrection in our lives.



### Opening Prayer

O God, who on this day,  
through your Only Begotten Son  
have conquered death and unlocked for us the path to eternity,  
grant, we pray, that we who keep  
the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection  
may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit,  
rise up in the light of life.

## Second (*alternative*) Reading 1 Corinthians 5: 6–8

**Y**ou must know how even a small amount of yeast is enough to leaven all the dough, so get rid of all the old yeast, and make yourselves into a completely new batch of bread, unleavened as you are meant to be. Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed; let us celebrate the feast, then, by getting rid of all the old yeast of evil and wickedness, having only the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

I come to my place of prayer and take the time to become aware of being in God's presence. How do I feel on this day of Resurrection?

I may wish to consider my Lenten journey, or perhaps ponder briefly on what Holy Week has shown me or taught me this year.

I turn to the risen Jesus and speak to him of my love and gratitude.

St Paul speaks of baking bread and compares us to a new batch of bread.

I consider the unleavened bread Jesus used at the Last Supper.

Jesus, the Bread of Life, wants us to be completely united with him.

He sacrificed himself for this. As I ponder, I also give thanks.

What is Paul asking me to do?

What is the old yeast in me that maybe Lent has revealed?

I ask the Lord that I may be open so that he can show me. I listen.

Perhaps I can imagine Jesus making the bread, sifting the flour so that all is sincere, kneading the dough so that I am moulded by truth.

In what way then can I come to celebrate this feast with greater love and joy? With new life?

I turn to the Lord, praying for all those I love that they may have a fuller sharing in this new life.

I reflect on our sad and suffering world and ask the Lord to breathe his new life of love and peace to all nations.

I end my prayer with a '*Glory be ...*'

## Gospel John 20: 1–9

**I**t was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb,' she said, 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

Maybe I light a candle as I prepare to pray. Whether I feel joyful or not, the light can help me focus on today's amazing feast. I breathe gently, allowing the flickering light to awaken my faith and hope. I speak to Jesus of my love and of my joy in his triumph over death.

When I am ready, I read the Gospel a few times.

I ponder Mary of Magdala. The obstacle she feared has been removed. But how does she respond? Is she even more fearful now, or is she totally confused, still in the dark? How would I respond in this situation?

I then consider Peter and John. They, too, seem shaken and uncomprehending. I note John's deference to Peter. Would I do the same, or rush headlong in?

Like them, I examine at the cloths; I look at the stone. How do I react? What can block me? I speak to the Lord about how I feel.

Like the apostles, do I need to read the scriptures more carefully? I may need to consider this.

I turn to the Risen Lord and speak to him of my love and gratitude for all that he has suffered and won for me.