



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING

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WELCOME TO CHRIST THE KING

We welcome visitors, family and friends to our Mass today.
We are glad you are joining us today.

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD-YEAR-B-2024

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER SAJI-ARISE FROM YOUR GRAVES! A blessed Easter to you and your families and the entire parish. We have been living together as a community through the season of Lent, and now we are called to come out of our graves, and to experience the resurrection. What does that mean for you? Have you been lying in a grave of indifference? Do you find yourself not caring anymore or not caring as much as you used to? Do you find yourself isolating from others and choosing more often to be by yourself? Do you tend not to engage with people, for instance, not returning their phone calls or their emails or their texts? It is not good for us to be alone, no matter the level of suffering, the level of hurt or the level of disappointment. We are called to be in community and to bring our whole selves to that community. You may believe that your indifference and isolation is what you need most, but you are wrong. Come out of that grave so that you might experience new life! Have you been lying in a grave of division and separation? What happened to get you to the grave? Is whatever happened worth what you have lost in the process? Are you finding yourself feeling more insecure and afraid, even though you thought being in this grave would help you? Whatever the stone is that has been rolled in front of this grave can be moved through the power of God and your choices. God is waiting for your choice to begin to move out of the grave. It will involve being more understanding, more forgiving, and more merciful.

Are you willing to do those things so that you can live in light instead of darkness? You can give your grave whatever title you want, but now is the time to come out of those graves and experience light instead of darkness. When you feel yourself moving towards cynicism, hatred, prejudice, judgement against others, and a lack of generosity and charity, you know that you were heading toward a grave. Don't do it. Don't blame anyone else for the choice that you make to live in a grave. Our celebration of Easter is an invitation for each of us to come to new life with Jesus as he experiences his resurrection. His resurrection is a gift for all of us and an example of how to live. How did he get to his grave? By choosing to love those who nailed him to the cross and betrayed him. Those are the choices that lead to resurrection. The Season of Easter is longer than Lent, and that is for a reason. Coming out of the grave can be a lot more difficult than doing penance, prayer and almsgiving. Coming out of the grave is choosing to want to live again, and a willingness to set aside the stone that is over the grave. It takes a conscious choice to move to life again. Let us commit ourselves to using this Easter Season as a time of deeper life, deeper joy, and deeper peace.

Today concludes the Season of Lent as the church begins the Sacred Paschal Triduum with the Liturgy of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 p.m. followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 12:00 a.m. concluding with Night Prayer. The Triduum continues through Good Friday with the celebration of the Lord's Passion and on Holy Saturday it reaches its summit in the Easter Vigil. These three special days are considered one liturgical celebration. The Triduum is often called a bit of a retreat within the liturgical year. All are invited. On Good Friday a special collection is taken up for the church in the Holy Land. In these challenging times in the Middle East, Christians are experiencing unique hardships. The Pontifical Good Friday collection offers all Catholics an opportunity to express their solidarity with Christians in the Holy Land, which is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of those caught up in war, violence and instability in that area of the globe. May you and your family and your friends be blessed with the hope of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. May you know of his love for you and his commitment to love you forever. May you know, in our Christ The King community, a community of welcome and hospitality. May you know peace that is not changed by external events, but is anchored deeply in your own mind and heart. My prayers and thoughts are with you if you are travelling over the Easter holiday. Take pleasure in time spent with your family, friends, and fun destination locations. May the Risen Christ assist you to realise your abilities and gifts to live your life like Jesus with meaning and purpose. Happy Easter to all. BE BLESSED AND BE A BLESSING.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia. You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia. Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed; let us celebrate the feast then, in the Lord. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia; therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.

WELCOME TO CHRIST THE KING! We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our parishioners and visitors attending public Mass. Whether you are just passing through or looking for a spiritual home, we pray you find Christ the King inviting and spiritually uplifting. If you are attending Mass on a regular basis, we encourage you to register with the parish. Please call our parish office and start the conversation! To our visitors, we hope you enjoy your stay here in Amesbury. Our church is always open to you, your family, and friends. pax et bonum (peace and all good)

PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS AND GENEROSITY A big thank you for all your generous donations, which are greatly appreciated. If anyone would like to transfer to standing order or bank transfer, this would help to simplify our banking procedure. The Parish bank details are: Name: Christ the King Church, Amesbury, Bank: NatWest Account number 66286638 and Sort code-52-10-03. If you wish to remember the Parish in your Will, further information is available from the Parish Treasurer or office

REST IN PEACE-May those who have died enter into the mercy of God and the joy of the Kingdom.

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST, The Lord is truly risen, Alleluia! Around the world we proclaim this marvellous truth. Good news is ours. Sin and death have been vanquished. Christ has conquered. God is victorious! In light of the suffering and death of the past year, how blessed we are to behold again the Mystery of the Resurrection. These months have been dark and bleak. They have been long and challenging. Yet, as we encounter Easter 2024, we are reminded that God has the final word. Indeed, Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it (John I :5). This Light, Jesus Christ, illumines our path. He gives hope. As the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council said: Through Christ and in Christ, the riddles of sorrow and death grow meaningful. Apart from His Gospel, they overwhelm us. Christ has risen, destroying death by His death; He has lavished life upon us so that... we can cry out in the Spirit: Abba, Father With significant challenges facing us still on Long Island and across the globe, with darkness still afoot, perhaps the joy of Easter is difficult to embrace. Our hearts may be like those of the disciples who went on Easter dawn to anoint the Lord's body. At the strange sight of an empty tomb and an apparently absent Jesus, instead of experiencing immediate joy, they were confused and distressed. Only in seeing the Lord face to face did they come to embrace His rising from the dead.

Like Mary Magdalene and the other disciples, we need to see Christ alive among us. We need to see the Resurrection in our midst. So, this Easter, let us ask, "Where is Christ alive?" Christ is alive in the countless frontline workers, civil servants, and medical professionals who have served so faithfully and so heroically this past year. Their sacrificial love and Good Samaritan-willingness to help neighbours in need radiate the Lord Jesus! Christ is alive in the catechumens who have received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil. Their reception of the sacraments reminds us of the power of our own Baptism.

Above all, Christ is alive in His risen and glorified presence in the Eucharist and in the transforming power of His Body and Blood that we receive in the celebration of the Mass. Christ is alive, and therefore the Church is alive. The Eucharist is the source of this life – and its power has become perhaps more evident than ever, after months of separation from the weekly and daily celebration of the Mass. Together, we recall the disciples' recognition of Jesus following the Resurrection at Emmaus in the opening of the Scriptures and the breaking of the Bread. We are grateful for the many ways in which our parishes and schools have continued to foster creatively this Emmaus experience on Long Island, both in-person and virtually. May we continue to recognise the Sunday

Eucharist as the source from which the life of the Resurrected Christ bursts forth into the world. At his Sunday Angelus on January 3, 2021, Pope Francis beautifully reminded us of Christ's continued presence in our midst: I like to think that when the Lord prays to the Father for us, he does not merely speak: he shows him the wounds of the flesh, he shows him the wounds he suffered for us. This is Jesus: with his flesh he is the intercessor, he wanted to bear even the signs of suffering. Jesus, with his flesh, is before the Father. Indeed, the Gospel says that He came to dwell among us. He did not come to visit us, and then leave; He came to dwell with us, to stay with us. May we continue to encounter the presence of Jesus Christ who dwells in and through His Church. May we continue to experience signs of His Resurrection even amidst the challenges and crosses we embrace, and may this encounter continue to fill our hearts, so that our voices can confidently cry out: The Lord is truly risen! Alleluia

FINDING LIGHT IN THE MIDST OF OUR EXPERIENCES OF DARKNESS The light is within us. Once we understand this, we are never afraid of the dark. When we experience difficult times in life, we look everywhere to find support and a way out, but there are some situations in which we feel completely alone or lost. When this happens, we often lose hope and faith and think about giving up on life until we connect with our inner selves and realise that the guiding light is truly within us. Don't lose faith in life, even in the most challenging times. It may be difficult, and you may feel weak from within, but within you is also the strength, power, and the guiding force. Believe, meditate, pray and keep going; you will be led, even if you don't see a way out. It may get dark around you, but within you, you are always lit.

MASS SCHEDULE STARTING FROM 30TH MARCH 2024
SATURDAY 30TH MARCH MASS AT 7.00PM SOLEMN EASTER VIGIL

EASTER SUNDAY 31ST MARCH MASS AT 9.30AM FATHER JOHN QUINN, RIP AND 11.00AM PRIVATE INTENTION

EASTER MONDAY 1ST APRIL ADORATION AT 10.00AM AND MASS AT 11.00AM JO CHAMBERS FAMILY'S SPECIAL INTENTIONS

EASTER TUESDAY 2ND APRIL ADORATION AT 9.00AM MASS AT 10.00AM MAUREEN TAYLOR (IN THANKSGIVING)

EASTER WEDNESDAY 3RD APRIL ADORATION AT 9.00AM MASS AT 10.00AM

EASTER THURSDAY 4TH APRIL ADORATION AT 9.00AM MASS AT 10.00AM CHRISTINE KINGHORN (BIRTHDAY INTENTIONS)

EASTER FRIDAY 5TH APRIL ADORATION AT 9.00AM MASS AT 10.00AM

SATURDAY 6TH APRIL VIGIL MASS AT 6.00PM JOHN COCKRELL (INTENTIONS)

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY 7TH APRIL MASS AT 9.30AM FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH AND 11.00AM GAY TARRANT (INTENTIONS)

WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES A HAPPY AND BLESSED EASTER! Easter is a privileged time in which we are invited to discover the risen Jesus truly alive and present in our lives and our homes! May we continue to encounter the presence of Jesus Christ who dwells in and through His Church. May we continue to experience signs of His Resurrection even amidst the challenges and crosses we embrace, and may this encounter continue to fill our hearts, so that our voices can confidently cry out: The Lord is truly risen! Alleluia! May the reality of the risen Jesus resonate in our hearts and propel us into the world as missionary disciples eager to share the joy of the Gospel with all we encounter along our way. Be assured of my prayers for you and your loved ones. Jesus Christ is risen! He is truly risen! Alleluia! Happy Easter!

HOME FOR EASTER An elderly man in Miami calls his son in New York and says, “I hate to ruin your Easter, but I have to tell you that your mother and I are divorcing. Forty five years of misery is enough.” “Pop, what are you talking about?” the son screams. “We can’t stand the sight of each other any longer,” the old man says. “We’re sick of each other, and I’m sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Chicago and tell her.” Frantic, the son calls his sister, who explodes on the phone. “Like heck they’re getting divorced,” she shouts. “I’ll take care of this.” She calls her father immediately and screams at the old man, “You are not getting divorced! Don’t do a single thing until I get there.” I’m calling my brother back and we’ll both be there tomorrow. Until then, don’t do a thing. Do you hear me?” and she hangs up. The old man hangs up his phone and turns to his wife. “It worked!” he says. “They’re coming for Easter and paying their own airfares.” Today Christians unite with loved ones to sing the most beautiful word ever sung in church, “Alleluia” which is a cry of jubilation spelling out the belief that Jesus lives and is present to us. Easter renders the glorious news that God raised Jesus from death to new life, which is the foundation of Christian faith. Easter begins in the darkness of night, in the hopelessness of ashes and leads us to the Risen Christ enabling us to mend broken lives through the compassion, mercy, and peace that Jesus exhibited in his humanity. Easter celebrations ignite the flame of Christ’s victorious light in every corner of our lives that makes believers stand up and shout “Alleluia”. Easter highlights God’s presence in the Risen Christ, which makes the Resurrection of Jesus the most important event in history, and a mystery that touches all in that it challenges Christians to transform areas of human darkness into belief in the possibility of all they can become. Pope St. John Paul II once stated, “Do not abandon yourself to despair. We are Easter people and Hallelujah is our song.” Easter is a fifty day season filled with promises of new life that get unveiled through signs, symbols, and prayers. An article December 2018, defined the Resurrection of Jesus in this manner. “Many people find value in thinking of the caterpillar who spins a pupa, goes into that pupal stage, totally disintegrates, and then emerges as this butterfly. It’s the same insect, but completely different not only in what it looks like but in what it can do. The butterfly can fly. The resurrection is like that. To believe in resurrection is not to believe in a scientific miracle. It is to believe in God. It is an act of hope in the God who created you and everything else, who has the love and the power still to recreate, even when death has taken away the only life that you know.”

Easter presents Christians with a positive outlook on life that helps find meaning to life that steers believers to discover beauty rather than ugliness, and faith rather than doubt in the dark corners of existence. Belief in resurrection shattered the darkness of those who were embedded with an image of the crucified Christ in that at the site of the Empty Tomb people with restricted viewpoints saw absence of God; whereas people of faith brought forth the daring proclamation that Jesus had risen. This act of God sprang testimony from believers who recognised the Risen Christ and articulated it through metaphorical language. It is only through the eyes of resurrection that the life of Jesus makes sense as the four Gospels written in the aftermath of resurrection coloured each evangelist’s image of Jesus. Resurrection gives people the desire to experience new life that transports Christians from moments of chaos to the discovery of God’s love. Enjoy this festive day and make Easter greetings spring hope in the incredible possibilities that exist in life. As the early church gave witness to the works of Jesus, grasp courage to stand up for your beliefs so that like the elderly couple who hoped for a visit from their children, the Easter Season becomes a fifty day celebration of “Alleluias” that gives new vision to those blinded by the incredible possibilities of all God can do in us.

PRO-LIFE INTENTIONS FOR MARCH For those who work to defend the lives of the unborn, the sick, the infirm, and the aged: those who defend humanity’s inalienable right to life.

LIGHTHOUSE HOLIDAY CLUB-Saturday 13th April 10am-12 noon. An Easter celebration for Primary age children. Planned activities to include, story, music, crafts and more! Cost £3 per child to cover materials. Children will have an opportunity to share their activities as part of the Parish Easter Celebration after Mass the same evening. N.B. Parental Consent forms must be completed and handed in before registering children. Forms available for collection and return from Sharon Jameson after Sunday Masses prior to the event.

THE DIVINE MERCY NOVENA The Divine Mercy Novena is prayed nine days prior to Divine Mercy Sunday, beginning on Good Friday, March 29. Day 1 Intention: We pray for all mankind, especially all sinners. Day 2 Intention: We pray for souls of priests and religious. Day 3 Intention: We pray for all devout and faithful souls. Day 4 Intention: We pray for those who do not believe in God and those who do not yet know Me. Day 5 Intention: We pray for souls of those who have separated themselves from the church. Day 6 Intention: We pray for the meek and humble souls and the souls of little children. Day 7 Intention: We pray for souls who especially venerate and glorify My mercy. Day 8 Intention: We pray for souls who are detained in purgatory. Day 9 Intention: We pray for souls who have become lukewarm.

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION Pope Francis has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land. Your support helps the church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools and offer religious education. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines. The pandemic hit particularly hard the Christians in the Holy Land. Most of them depend on pilgrimages to work. In these times of crisis, the Pontifical Good Friday Collection is also necessary to meet the basic needs of the People of God still living in this Land where the Church was born. When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you become an instrument of peace and join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. Your contribution helps support the struggling Christian community in the Holy Land, and to protect Christianity’s holiest places.

ALLELUIA! HE IS RISEN! Today we celebrate the great feast of the Resurrection of the Lord, Easter Sunday. The Resurrection of Jesus is the sign that he has power over life and death and is the One who he claimed that he was, God himself. We need to allow the signs of new life that flow from the Resurrection enter into all aspects of our life. No matter what difficulty we face, the Resurrection shows us that the promises of Jesus are true. The Resurrection is not limited to one day of the year. Every Sunday is a “Little Easter” in which we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. Just as the disciples of Jesus had to come to belief in his Resurrection, so too do we. See the credible reasons that the Scriptures give us for the witnesses who saw the Risen Christ and ate and drank with him. The Holy Spirit reveals to us and gives us faith in the Resurrection of Jesus. May you and your families know the joy of the Risen Lord. Easter joy and blessings!

EASTER CELEBRATION-Saturday 13th April after Mass in the Hall. Following the format of the Christmas Celebration this is an informal, inclusive celebration with traditional and less traditional music, readings, videos and sketches. All welcome!

ON THE WAY- THE SEVEN LAST WORDS: IT IS FINISHED This word might strike us as unnecessary. What need is there for a crucified man to announce the end of his life, that it is finished? Anyone could see that. Once the death sentence was announced he was, as the saying goes, a “dead man walking.” Clearly, then, this word must mean more than just “It’s over.” Indeed, “It is finished” means finished not in the sense of being over, but of being completed, fulfilled, and accomplished. He means not that the Crucifixion ends something but that it completes and fulfils it. But what exactly? What has he fully accomplished – finished – on the Cross? First, and most importantly, Jesus fulfills and completes the work of redemption, which consists of the full offering of himself to his Father for our sake. It is the obedience of the Son to the Father, accomplished in the offering of his life in the Passion, that redeems us from sin and death. In the Garden of Gethsemane, he had prayed, “Abba, Father, all things are possible to you. Take this cup away from me, but not what I will but what you will” (Mk 14:36). On the Cross, that trust in his Father (his Abba or Daddy) and obedience to his will is fulfilled and completed. This obedience of the Son to the Father is not one of slavery. It comes from his love for the Father. Indeed, it’s his nourishment: “My food is to do the will of him who sent me, and to accomplish his work” (Jn 4:34). Thus, this perfect obedience finishes or completes the revelation of Jesus as the Son of the Father. “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will realise that I AM, and that I do nothing on my own, but I say only what the Father taught me” (Jn 8:28). Now, as we see him on the Cross, as we see his full obedience, we also see the full revelation of the eternal Son.

The Crucifixion also completes Christ’s moral teachings. The execution of Socrates cut short his teaching. The execution of Jesus Christ, on the other hand, fulfils everything he taught. The Beatitudes...loving one’s enemy...forgiving those who persecute you...trusting in the Father...these are taught fully from the Cross no longer by words but by the witness of his sacrifice. The splendour of his truth shines forth with greater brilliance from the Cross. Further, the Crucifixion completes Christ’s gift of himself to the Church. He offers his life not only to the Father for our sake but also to the Church. He accomplishes his Father’s work of salvation by becoming the Bridegroom of the Church. That spousal gift of himself to the Church is now complete. Or, according to a different translation, It is consummated. **We say that a marriage is consummated when the husband and wife physically express their vows in the marital embrace. On the Cross, Christ the Bridegroom gives his Body to the Church his Bride. He consummates all that he proposed and promised by this gift of himself. This “It is finished” isn’t spoken by a man who has despaired and given up.** These are not words of resignation. They are spoken by a man who has given everything, even to the last drop of his Precious Blood. He reveals something that we all desire: to approach the end of our lives with that sense of fidelity and complete self-giving, that we have accomplished the work the Father has given us to do. We pray to be able to say with Saint Paul, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” (2 Tim 4:7).

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: The Society of Our Lady of Lourdes (SOLL) are pleased to announce that their annual pilgrimage of the sick to Lourdes will be on the 24th to the 31st May 2024. SOLL seeks to ensure that sick pilgrims are offered an opportunity to travel to Lourdes, minimising the barriers of disability and finance. Applications are now open. Please think if there is someone in the parish who SOLL can help. Applications are also welcomed for volunteer helpers, carers, nurses, doctors and priests! For further information, please contact SOLL on [0208 8489833](tel:02088489833) or www.soll-lourdes.com or call your parish contact , Sacha Blanchard on [07768 622880](tel:07768622880)

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:First Holy Communion is a wonderful moment in a child’s life and represents a sign of growth in the knowledge and love of God for each and every child. Parents who bring their child or children for First Holy Communion are fulfilling the vow they made publicly at their child’s baptism some years before to be the “first and best teachers of their child in the ways of faith”. Now they are more actively fulfilling this vow. The celebration of First Holy Communion each year is primarily a Parish Community Celebration. There is great expectation that the family are full practising members of the community and that they regularly come to Mass. On this understanding, the parish will provide all the necessary help to parents and children, particularly those children not attending Catholic schools. The support from parents for this and other elements of the course cannot be emphasized enough. No child will be denied First Holy Communion; however, children who miss two or at most three sessions will have missed key catechesis. In such cases and after discussion with catechists and parents, the parish priest may remove a child from the course and invite parents to reapply for the following year. Sports events, parties and other such competing attractions must come second to First Holy Communion preparation and the regular attendance of Mass during the First Holy Communion year. First Communion Class Sunday14th April at 12.15pm Sunday 21st April, Sunday 28th April at 12.15pm Sunday 5th May at 12.15pm and Sunday 12th May at 12.15pm **First Holy Communion Mass on Sunday 19th May at 12.30pm.**

THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE; let us rejoice and be glad”. (Ps 118:24) Happy Easter. Christ is Risen. Alleluia, Alleluia! Today, we celebrate with Catholics all over the world in celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. "If Christ has not been raised, then empty is our preaching; empty, too, is your faith" (1 Cor 15:14). The word "Easter" comes from Old English, meaning the "East." The sun rises in the East and is a symbol for the rising Christ, who is the true Light of the world. The Paschal Candle used during the Easter Vigil is a central symbol of this divine light, which is Christ. The season of Easter is the most important of all liturgical times, which Catholics celebrate as the Lord's resurrection from the dead, culminating in his Ascension to the Father and sending of the Holy Spirit upon the Church. There are 50 days of the Easter season from the first Sunday to Pentecost. For those who do not know, the Shroud of Turin is a linen cloth of herringbone weave that is about 14ft. long and 3.5ft wide. It is imprinted with images of both the front and the back of a man who died after having been crucified. In regards to the Shroud, St. John Paul II said in his address on May 24, 1998: “[...] The Shroud is a challenge to our intelligence. It first of all requires of every person, particularly the researcher, that he humbly grasp the profound message it sends to his reason and his life. [...] Since it is not a matter of faith, the Church has no specific competence to pronounce on these questions. She entrusts to scientists the task of continuing to investigate, so that satisfactory answers may be found to the questions connected with this Sheet, which, according to tradition, wrapped the body of our Redeemer after he had been taken down from the cross. [...] The Shroud shows us Jesus at the moment of his greatest helplessness and reminds us that in the abasement of that death lies the salvation of the whole world. The Shroud thus becomes an invitation to face every experience, including that of suffering and extreme helplessness, with the attitude of those who believe that God’s merciful love overcomes every poverty, every limitation, every temptation to despair.” Looking at the details of the Shroud, one can see how the nails pierced the hands (folds of the wrist), over 100 blows of the scourge covering the body and the wound from the lance that pierced the side. There are also many other details such as faint images of flowers and pollen grains tracing the geographic location of these fresh flowers to around Jerusalem. One of the more striking aspects of the museum was a life-sized statue of the man from the shroud. Reflecting upon the details of the crucifixion and death of Jesus bring a deeper awareness of the love of God. This all of course leads up to the resurrection of Christ, where no matter the greatest harm we can inflict upon the body, Jesus is Life! Although we may only perceive death and despair, life and hope is a reality that goes beyond our senses. Rejoice and be glad, for Jesus reigns! Christ is Risen! Alleluia, Alleluia!