

## SUNDAY MASS

### 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.*

**FIRST READING:** Acts 10:34, 37-43.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Psalm 118.

### RESPONSE:

*This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad.*

1. Give praise to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures forever.  
Let the house of Israel say,  
'His mercy endures forever'. R
2. The Lord's right hand has done mighty deeds; his right hand is exalted.  
The Lord's right hand has done mighty deeds'.  
I shall not die, I shall live  
and recount the deeds of the Lord. R
3. The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.  
By the Lord has this been done,  
a marvel in our eyes. R

**SECOND READING:** Colossians 3:1-4.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

*Alleluia, alleluia. Christ, our Paschal Lamb, has been sacrificed; let us, therefore, celebrate the festival in the Lord. Alleluia.*

**GOSPEL:** John 20:1-9.

### 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.*

## THE WEEK AHEAD

# Live the Word

### Mon 1 Apr EASTER OCTAVE

Acts 2:14,22-33; Psalm 16; Matthew 28:8-15

Reflect upon the chief priests and elders. Try to ponder their hardness of heart and the sad situation they found themselves in as they attempted to cover up their error and sin. Resolve never to fall into this form of sin yourself.

### Tue 2 Apr EASTER OCTAVE

Acts 2:36-41; Psalm 33; John 20:11-18

'Seeing is believing!' But for Mary Magdalene in today's Gospel, something more was necessary. Jesus initiates her ability to truly see and recognise him. In your prayer, allow Jesus to do the same for you.

### Wed 3 Apr EASTER OCTAVE

Acts 3:1-10; Psalm 105; Luke 24:13-35

Spend time with our Lord, immersed in his Word, listening to his voice, so that you will come to believe more fully. Allow the message of Jesus' death and Resurrection to burn within you.

### Thu 4 Apr EASTER OCTAVE

Acts 3:11-26; Psalm 8; Luke 24:35-48

Jesus had every reason to scold his followers for failing him, but instead he offers peace. Do not let your ego get the better of you to prove you are right. From a place of peace respond in a loving way.

### Fri 5 Apr EASTER OCTAVE

Acts 4:1-12; Psalm 118; John 21:1-14

Reflect upon the ways that our Lord comes to you, speaks to you. Like the disciples, it is easy to miss him since his ongoing presence in our lives is also mysterious. Do you recognize Him? Do you respond?

### Sat 6 Apr EASTER OCTAVE

Acts 4:13-21; Psalm 118; Mark 16:9-15

How do you deal with your past sin? Have you completely acknowledged it, repented of it and sought forgiveness? If so, does it still haunt you? God sees only the depth of your conversion, sorrow and repentance.

### Sun 7 Apr 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 118; John 20:19-31

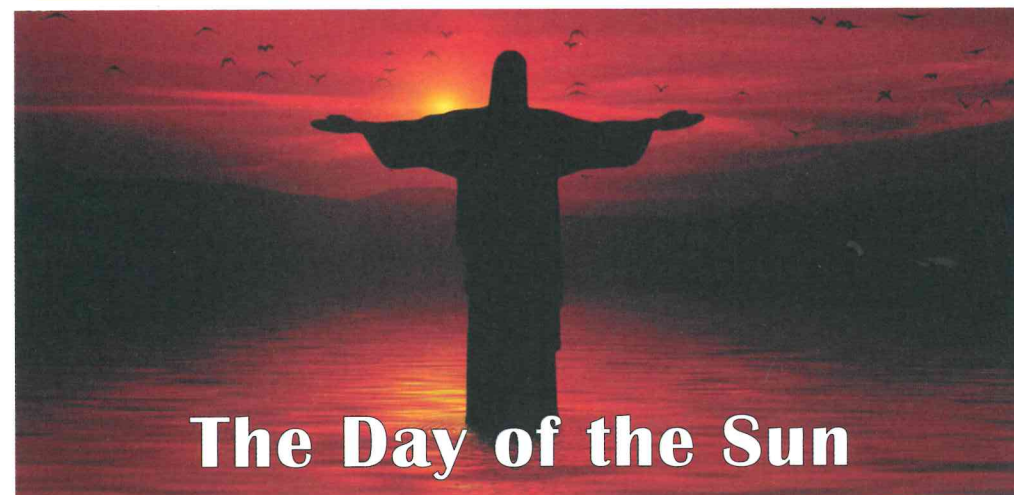
"Pure love ... knows that only one thing is needed to please God: to do even the smallest things out of great love – love, and always love." – St Mary Faustina Kowalska

(KEY: SOLEMNITY; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial)

# Catholic Link

## EASTER SUNDAY

Easter Sunday • Year B  
Divine Office: Week I • 31 March 2024



On the day we call the day of the sun, all who dwell in the city or country gather in the same place. The memoirs of the Apostles and the writings of the prophets are read, as much as time permits. When the reader has finished, he who presides over those gathered admonishes and challenges them to imitate these beautiful things." So writes St Justin in the year 155 in a letter to a Roman official explaining what Christians do during Sunday Eucharist. It is a classic description of the Liturgy of the Word, timeless in its simplicity.

Consider phrases such as 'day of the sun' (Sunday), 'gather in the same place' (church building), 'memoirs of the Apostles' (Gospels, Acts and New Testament letters), 'writings of the prophets' (Old Testament), 'admonishes and challenges' (homily). These phrases provide us with a refreshingly different perspective. But most of all, we marvel at the unbroken tradition of the Church down the centuries.

In one of his popular videos, Bishop Robert Barron reflects on how many empires have risen and fallen in the history of humankind. During his stay in Rome for the recent Synod on Synodality, he was struck by some of the ancient Roman sites like the Colosseum, noting that Roman Emperors like Caesar were once the most powerful men in the world but today all that remains of the glory of their empire are ruins. However, the Church has endured to this present time.

This of course includes the Mass and its long history. Although the Church celebrates the Mass every day, the highlight of the week for most Catholics is the Sunday Eucharist. The significance of Easter Sunday is that, liturgically, it is the very first Sunday, also known as the 'Sunday of Sundays' or the 'Great Sunday', when Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to his disciples. In a sense, every other Sunday takes its meaning from Easter Sunday. Every Sunday is the 'day of the Lord', the day of the 'Rising of the Sun' – the Resurrection of the Son.

When Christians go to the Holy Land on pilgrimage, they are indeed on a spiritual journey. To be in the same land as Jesus, to walk the way of the Cross which he walked, to sail on the sea of Galilee, give a completely new perspective to the Gospels that they will hear back home on Sundays. Even so, on the Great Sunday and indeed every Sunday, the person of Jesus is not relegated to a past event of wonder. Jesus is truly present here and now. In the Eucharist, more powerfully than any pilgrimage to the Holy Land could make possible, we encounter Jesus risen from the dead. We "recognise him at the breaking of the bread" (Luke 24:35). We exult in him as King of kings and Lord of lords. We proclaim with Psalm 118:24 that "this is the day that the Lord has made", and we join the disciples in their shout of joy: The Lord is truly risen, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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