

Sunday 12th April
Second Sunday of Easter

Today's Collect

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Next Week Services: Sunday 19th April

10:00am	Harvington	Morning Prayer
10:00am	Norton & Lenchwick	Holy Communion
11:00am	Church Lench	Holy Communion
11:00am	Abbots Morton	Holy Communion

Mid-week Eucharist: 11:00am Wednesdays at St James', Harvington

Upcoming Events

- Arch Messenger Deadline! Tomorrow (13th April) -if interested please contact Chris Reed at chris@archbenefice.org.uk
 - FAITH TODAY Friday Breslau – 17th April 10am, St James' Church Harvington
 - Community Coffee Morning – 25th April 10am-12pm, Church Lench VH.
 - Quingo! (Bingo & Quiz) – 16th May 5pm, St James' Church Harvington.
 - Rous lunch Annual Pig Roast – 27th June. Any willing helpers are welcome to contact Fran on herdmanfrances@gmail.com
- Flower Festival Weekend– 26th, 27th and 28th June.

This Week's First Reading: *Acts 2.14a, 22-32.*

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ²² Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. ²³ This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. ²⁴ But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. ²⁵ David said about him: ‘I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.’ ²⁶ Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope, ²⁷ because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay. ²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.’

²⁹ “Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. ³⁰ But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. ³² God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.”

This Week's Second Reading: *1Peter 1.3-9,*

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of

Continued: *1Peter 1.3-9.*

greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire— may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.
⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

This Week's Gospel Reading: *John 20.19-end.*

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." ³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.

³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Next Weeks Readings: *Zephaniah 3.14-end, Psalm 116.1-3, 10-end, 1Peter 1.17-23, Luke 24.13-35.*

Prayer of Intercession

Mighty God, what an amazing gift we have received! We have been born again through the resurrection and even though we have not seen the Risen Christ we love and believe in him, rejoicing with all Christians in an indescribable and glorious joy.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Gracious God, like Thomas we will still face times of doubt and uncertainty but we know that we are not alone in our doubts and that you, our Father in heaven, continue to love us whatever our state of mind or body. We give you thanks for our fellow Christians here in the Costa Blanca Chaplaincy.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Creator God, we pray for peace in our troubled world. Wherever nations are at war, especially in Ukraine, and people are suffering, we pray for true reconciliation. Protect all Christian people in the nations of the world, and help them to influence their country for the good of all.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Father God, we pray for the times when our doubts, our fears and our blinkered vision prevents us from taking care of our immediate family and household or when through our busyness, we take no part in the life of our neighbourhood or wider community.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Faithful God, we hold before you, those whom life has damaged and all who find it difficult to trust in you. We pray that you will push aside their doubts and fears and bring them hope, comfort, and healing and with it an inner peace.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Merciful God we pray for those who approach death with great fear and those who have died unprepared to meet you. Have mercy on us them, forgive them all that is past and gather them into your everlasting kingdom of peace and joy.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Everlasting God we thank you that our time of worship renews our faith and trust in you and your risen son Jesus Christ. Send us out into the coming week ready to show our gratitude and live the Good News of Easter.

Merciful father: **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**