

of the stone from Jesus' tomb. The world's most famous egg roll takes place every year on the White House lawn in Washington DC.

The first chocolate egg was sold by Fry's in 1873. Since then, they have become hugely popular with around 80 million sold in the UK each year and the pace egg has all but vanished. The Faberge egg is a jewelled egg created by the Jewellery firm House of Faberge, in St. Petersburg, Russia. The celebrated series of fifty Imperial Easter eggs was created for the Russian Imperial family from 1885 to 1916 when the company was run by Peter Carl Fabergé. They are inextricably linked to the glory and tragic fate of the last Romanov family. They were the ultimate achievement of the renowned Russian jewellery house and must be considered the last great commission of objets d'art.

**-Bernard Kellett**

**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**

**Psalms 117: Response: This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.**

**Second Reading: Colossians 3: 1-4**

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed; let us celebrate the feast then, in the Lord. Alleluia!**

**Gospel: John 20:1-9**

**Memorial Acclamation: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.**

**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.**



## **Easter Sunday**

### **Cycle A, 2023 Weekly Reflection: What have eggs to do with Easter?**

Easter is the most important date in the Christian calendar. Every year, Christians around the world remember Jesus' crucifixion and celebrate His resurrection three days later. But how did eggs come to represent Easter? Throughout history, people across the world have given each other eggs at spring festivals. In Judaism at the Passover meal, on the Seder Dish, eggs are symbols of the new life of freedom experienced by the Hebrews following their escape from slavery. Early Christians in Mesopotamia dyed eggs in the period after Easter. The practice was adopted by the Orthodox Churches and from there it spread into Western Europe. Again, eggs represent new life and rebirth, and it's thought that this ancient custom was absorbed into easter celebrations. During Lent, when Christians fast to mark Jesus' time in the wilderness, eggs were one of the foods that people weren't allowed to eat (why we make pancakes on Shrove Tuesday). When Easter Sunday came around an egg was a real treat.

Various traditions and superstitions sprang up around eggs at Easter. Eggs laid on Good Friday were said to turn into diamonds if they were kept for a hundred years. Some thought that eggs cooked on Good Friday and eaten at Easter would promote fertility and prevent sudden death. It became the custom to have your eggs blessed before you ate them. It was also said that if your eggs had two yolks, you would become rich. In Devon and Cornwall, people used to play a game like conkers with their eggs, hitting them against each other until one of them cracked. One tradition which just about clings on in some parts of England is the "pace egg". The word "pace" comes from "paschal", the Latin for Easter. They were hard boiled hen, duck, or goose eggs with a colourful shell. The first mention of pace eggs comes from early eighteenth century Lancashire, and they grew in popularity over the century. They were given as presents or at pace egg plays, and sometimes they were rolled along the ground in a race, perhaps to symbolise the rolling away