

Known in Spain as Semana Santa, or Holy Week, Easter is observed for an entire seven days on the Iberian Peninsula. Celebrations begin during the last week of Lent, and it is marked by huge and elaborate religious processions in nearly every single town and village across the country. People parade through the streets in costumes or in hooded robes, carrying intricate religious floats depicting difference scenes from the bible, while often accompanied by live music. Some of the most well-known take place in Zamora, Valladolid, Seville and Granada. Treats such as torrija (similar to French toast), pestiños and cakes are all popular around this time as well. *(Continued next week....)*

-Bernard Kellett

**Entrance Antiphon: Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.**

**First Reading: Acts 4: 32-35**

**Responsorial Psalm: 117 Response: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.**

**Second Reading: 1John 5: 1-6**

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe'. Alleluia!**



**Gospel: John 20: 19-31**

**Memorial Acclamation: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.**

**Communion Antiphon: Bring you hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.**



## **Second Sunday of Easter, Cycle B, 2024 Weekly**

### **Reflection: Easter Around the World (1)**

Easter is celebrated on the Sunday after the first full moon following the first day of spring. This means that the Easter festival can

occur on any Sunday between March 22 and April 25. The expression Easter derives from the Old English word Eastre or Eostre. Eostre refers to the Anglo-Saxon goddess of dawn and spring. Many Britons will inevitably be celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ by eating large quantities of egg-shaped chocolates. Easter was celebrated in Britain before the arrival of Christianity with the mission of Augustine in 597 AD. The eggs themselves are a very old tradition dating to a time before Christianity. In pagan times, eggs were a traditional symbol of fertility and rebirth and were most likely to have been chicken or duck eggs, hard-boiled and painted in various colours and patterns.

However, this tradition may not have been unique to the British Isles. In Persia, eggs have been painted for thousands of years as part of the spring celebration of No Ruz, the Zoroastrian New Year. In Iran, coloured eggs are placed on the dinner table at No Ruz, and a mother eats one cooked egg for each child she has. The festival of No Ruz predates the reign of Cyrus the Great, whose rule (580-529 BC) marks the beginning of Persian history. Easter eggs in the UK are normally accompanied by or even delivered to children by Easter bunnies. In folklore, the Easter Bunny carried coloured eggs, sweets and sometimes toys to the homes of children during the Easter season. So, in this way, the Easter bunny has many similarities with Father Christmas. It might seem strange that a rabbit is associated with Easter, however, the connection to Christianity is less tenuous than you might think. The idea that a hare could reproduce without the loss of virginity led to a Christian association with the Virgin Mary, with hares sometimes occurring in illuminated manuscripts and Northern European paintings of the Virgin Mary and Christ as a child.



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**07-April-2024**

**Eucharistic Prayer – II or III**

**Second Sunday of Easter**

**Divine Mercy Sunday**

*R.C DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY REG. CHARITY No.234025*

<b>Saturday (Vigil) 6.00pm</b>	<b>Divine Mercy Sunday</b>	<b>Parishioners</b>
<b>Sunday 8.30am</b>		Patsy Conlon
<b>10:00am</b>		Mary McCarthy
Monday 10.00am	<b>Requiem Mass: Desmond Steele</b>	
Tuesday 9.30am		
Wednesday 9.30am		Sue Southern
Thursday 9.30am	St Stanislaus Fr David Peters (2 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary)	
Friday 9.30am		
Saturday 11.30am	Nicola Delany (Intentions)	
Saturday (Vigil) 6.00pm	Michael Moran (Sick)	
<b>Sunday 8.30am</b>		<b>Parishioners</b>
<b>10.00am</b>	Third Sunday of Easter	Elizabeth Holmes

**Thank You:** Many thanks to all who took part so reverently in the Holy Week Celebration. Special thanks go to our church cleaners, those who donated flowers and readers. Thanks also go to David Kingsley for the wonderful music for the Triduum Services.

**Desmond Steele RIP:** Desmond Steele, beloved Father of Shaun Steele passed away a few days ago. Please remember Desmond and his grieving family in your prayers and thoughts. The requiem Mass will be celebrated on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 10am in our church.

**First Holy Communion 2024:** Sunday 05<sup>th</sup> May during the 10.00am Mass. Please keep our young candidates and their families in your prayers.

**Attention all Gift Aid Donors:** The tax year 2023/24 has ended and the Parish will soon be undertaking the process of claiming back the Gift Aid refunds on donations made in the tax year. If your circumstances have changed and you no longer pay income tax (or if for any other reason you

do not wish to remain in the Gift Aid Scheme) please let Fr. Mathew or Louise Jones know as soon as possible, otherwise it will be assumed you have paid sufficient income tax for the Parish to reclaim Gift Aid on donations made in the last tax year.

**Church Offertory and Gift Aid Explained:** If you pay tax and are not in the Gift Aid Scheme you could help the parish by enrolling. For every £1.00 you donate HMRC gives the parish 25p. All that it involves is giving your name and address on a Gift Aid declaration form. No other details are required. There is no minimum amount or fixed amount, you don't have to give every week and you can stop or start as you like. The only stipulation is that the money has to be placed in a Gift Aid envelope or, preferably to save the volunteer counters' time, paid by standing order or cheque. If you would like to join the Gift Aid Scheme, please contact Father Mathew or Louise Jones.

**Diocesan Mass for the celebration of Marriage 2024:** The annual Marriage Mass will take place on Saturday June 8th, 12 noon at Saint Columba's Church Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH2 1SA, and will be followed by a reception in the Parish Hall. Those who are celebrating significant wedding anniversaries this year( Silver, Pearl, Ruby, Golden, Diamond or Platinum and also newly married couples) wishing to attend this celebration please send name/ address/ anniversary - to Fr Mathew to receive an invitation from the bishop.

**Alderley Edge Musical Festival:** Wednesday 1st May to Saturday 4th May. Wednesday 1st May. 11.30am to 12.25pm and 2.00pm to 6.00pm and 7.00pm to 9.00pm Thursday 2nd May 11.00am to 12.00pm. and 2.00pm to 5.20pm. and. 7.00pm to 8.45pm Friday 3rd May 3.00pm to 5.05pm and 7.00pm to 8.40pm Saturday 4th May 10.00am to 11.45am and 1.00pm to 2.50pm . The church will be used for the festival above hours.

**Parish Finances: February**

<b>Offertory Envelopes</b>	<b>Standing Orders</b>	<b>Loose Plate</b>	<b>Donations</b>	<b>Total</b>
£682.70	£1,326.50	£1,161.20	£204.60	£3,375.00

Thank you very much for all your generous support to the Parish.