

## Letter from the Vicar

Good Friday  
April 2020

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Under normal circumstances the weather forecast for the Easter weekend would have had us rejoicing and thinking of exciting things we could do outdoors (after we had been to Church, obviously!). Alas, unless you have a garden or can go for your daily walk, time spent outdoors this Easter is going to be severely hampered. This morning at 9.30am I felt a deep pang of remorse as I looked out the window, at the glorious sunshine, and thought 'The All Age Stations of the Cross would be just about to start. This weather would have been perfect!' I love the Stations of the Cross along the Moor, our partnership with the folk at St Mary and St Joseph's, the 200 or so people (many of whom children) who join us, and the unexpected encounters.

This year there has been much that has been different. I know many have longed for those times and services when we were together last year and in years gone by. I hope that many will be finding the worship resources available on our website helpful, or have found alternative provision – perhaps joining the St Albans Abbey community in worship. Last night (Maundy Thursday) nobody's feet were tickled (sorry, washed) and yet Eucharist was still offered and a watch before the Blessed Sacrament followed. Today, you might have walked the Via Dolorosa through the online resource of Stations of the Cross, or placed a cross on a table and spent some time reflecting on the enormity of God's love for us that he gave his only Son to die for our salvation. On Sunday we will celebrate with joy the mysterious workings of God in raising Jesus to life. We rejoice in the light no darkness can overcome and in the promise that the resurrection is open to all.

Jesus' resurrection also reminds me that life does come out of death, despair, and pain. Our isolation is hard but *joy cometh in the morning*. We must wait with eager longing for the resurrection of our society when a new dawn will shed its glorious rays upon us. It will not be the same as before – it cannot be. But all will become new – transformed and restored. Let us keep praying for that day when we can see each other face to face again.

Worshipping and celebrating with you all on Easter Sunday is normally the highlight of my year – as I know it is for many of you. The joy, fun, and witness we share is both palpable and enthusiastic. The music is lively and tells of God's victory over sin and death. Although we cannot worship together I urge you to make your spiritual communion tomorrow. There are various resources on the website – including a Video of the Easter Ceremony from my garden and the singing of the Exsultet. <https://stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk/easter-sunday-services-resources/>

I wish you every blessing this Easter as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Stay well. Stay Safe. And in the joy of the risen Christ let us say each day...

**Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

In the love of the risen Christ,



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