



Parish of St Peter and St Paul

ARCHDIOCESE OF WESTMINSTER

THE PRESBYTERY
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Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year A) 14th May 2023

SUNDAY MASS: 9:45am & 12noon

WEEKDAY MASS: Monday & Friday 12.30pm; Tuesday & Wednesday 8am

CONFESSIONS: (on request)



UP & DOWN...

This Thursday 18th May is the **Solemnity of the ASCENSION** of the Lord.

The Church calls us to look **UP** as far as possible...

On Sunday 28th May is **PENTECOST SUNDAY**.

The Church calls **DOWN** the Holy Spirit as far as possible...

On Thursday evening, we begin the **NOVENA to the Holy Spirit**, nine days of intense prayer leading to **Sunday 28th**.
Every day, raise **UP** your eyes, lift **UP** your hands and pray.
Every day, call **DOWN** the Holy Spirit, give him permission to go as **DOWN** as possible, to touch all that in us is early.

These are the last weeks for our Paschal Candle.

A Candle that helped us to look **UP**,
and as it gave us light by going **DOWN**.

We remember in prayer Maya & Jayden,
Reginald, Scarlett & Georgia, who will be
confirmed on Friday May 26th at St. John's



SCAN to GIVE

You can scan this QR
code for your weekly
Sunday donation.

Thank you.

NO Mass on Friday 19th May



Mors et vi-ta du-él-lo confi-xé-re mi-rán-



do : dux vi-tae mórtu-us, regnat vivus.

This is a passage of the ancient hymn *Victimae Paschalis laudes*, sang over the Easter Octave: "Life and death contended, battle strangely ended, the Lord of life was slain, yet he lives to reign".

This battle, lasted from Maundy Thursday till Easter morning. Around the last supper and in the garden, on the Cross and in the underworld, and by the stone sealed against the sepulchre. This is how, Saint Ephrem, recounts this strange battle...

"Death slew him by means of the body which he had assumed, but that same body proved to be the weapon with which he conquered death. Concealed beneath the cloak of his manhood, his godhead engaged death in combat; but in slaying our Lord, death itself was slain. It was able to kill natural human life, but was itself killed by the life that is above the nature of man.

Death trampled the Lord underfoot but he in his turn trampled on death as a trodden way. He submitted to death, enduring it willingly, because by this means he would be able to destroy that death which did not want to die. Death had its own way when the Lord went out from Jerusalem carrying the cross; but on that same cross, by a loud cry, he summoned the dead from the underworld, even if death tried to prevent it.

When death, with its customary audacity, came foraging for her mortal fruit, it encountered its own destruction in the hidden life that fruit contained. All unsuspecting, it swallowed him up, doing so released life itself setting free a multitude of men.

Death could not devour the Lord unless he had a body, neither could hell swallow him up unless he bore our flesh; and so he came in search of a chariot in which to ride to the underworld. This chariot was the body which he received from the Virgin; in it he invaded death's fortress, broke open its strongroom and scattered all its treasure."

We all need to learn this Hymn by heart because we need to learn how to live through 'strange battles' in our life. Battles where defeats are in fact victories, mistakes turn into humility and humiliations into blessings, our cross turns into a bridge by which we can pass from death into the land of the living, our persecutors become farmers of resurrection, what we lose becomes an abundant harvest, what is bitter is sweet, death is new Life.

He is Truly Risen, Alleluia (again and again...)

In hunc.

Father Ivano