EASTER OFFERINGS

The collection at all Masses on Easter Sunday and the Vigil Mass is your personal donation to the priest. It goes together with Christmas to provide for his personal upkeep for the year.

EASTER THANKS

We are enormously indebted to all those who work so hard to make our parish work. Out of sight they may be - out of mind they are not! Things and events could simply not happen without them. Warm and sincere thanks, whether what you do is in the public eye or completely unseen. It would not be practical to list every individual as they are so numerous.

Our liturgical celebrations in Holy Week have been well attended and very prayerful. The Masses, the Walk of Witness, the Children’s Stations, and the Prayer at the Tomb and the other events have all been impressive. Thanks so much to everyone who was involved.

**A very**

**HAPPY EASTER FEAST**

**to everyone in our parish and to our visitors.**

**Monsignor Turner,**

**And**

**Bishop Crowley**

MASS THIS WEEK

**Please note that Mass this week are the usual time except Monday which is at 10.00am.**

**OFFICE HOLIDAY**

Please note that the Parish office will be closed during the school holidays.

**YOUR CROSS !**

**As Christians we have a responsibility for our society and our country. This is expressed very much in our taking an active part in the election coming in a few weeks time.**

**On 20th April at High Street Methodist Church, you have the opportunity to hear what the local candidates in the election have to say about what they stand for and what are their principles.**

**Please think about what YOUR question to the parties would be. And let Mgr. Turner have that to present to the candidates.**

**LADIES GROUP**

Because we could not get a satisfactory date for the Banish the Blues Supper in February, the Ladies Group will be hosting a St George’s Day Sunday Lunch on the 24th of April at the Lourdes Hall (12.30 for 1 pm).  We will offer a traditional 3 course lunch for £15 for adults, £7.50 for primary school pupils and a family ticket for £50 (no pre-schoolers please).  Bring your own drinks – glasses provided.  Proceeds will be shared between the Developing World Group and drainage repairs to the undercroft.  Tickets will be on sale after all the Masses next weekend.

**DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP**

You donated from 1st April: £59.62 since 18th March to the vestibule box at weekend masses and the wall safe at the back of church. Having sent a further £2,000 this week towards the Ugandan (Arua) water project we are sponsoring (including ceilidh proceeds) we have now provided £11,400 of the £12,800 we committed to this work. Work on the first borehole and protecting the first nine natural springs began last month for completion by June, with the second half of the project due to start in September. We are due to receive a progress report in May/June. Thank you all for your generosity.

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**EASTER SUNDAY**

– the most joyful day of the year

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in his joy! Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will be still be ‘growing’ in their Christian walk with God.

**Why does the date more around so much?** Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites’ exodus from Egypt and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for Good Friday: Friday 7 April 30 AD or Friday 3 April, 33 AD, with Easter Sunday falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these the most likely.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an ‘ecclesiastical full moon’, which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22 March, which last fell in 1818 and won’t fall again until 2285. The latest is 25 April, which last happened in 1943 and is next due in 2038.

**Why the name, ‘Easter’**? In almost every European language, the festival’s name comes from ‘Pesach’, the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word ‘Easter’, however, seems to come from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in ‘Eostur month’, but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like Eos and Aurora, whose names mean ‘shining in the east’. So Easter might have meant simply ‘beginning month’ – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

**Finally, why Easter eggs?** On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it’s easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.