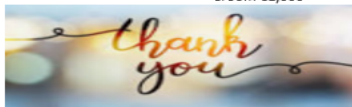


PARISH NEWSLETTER



Canon Willie Fitzmaurice P.P. 061 397231 / 086 2423 728
 Email: croomchurch@eircom.net
 Croom and Banogue Parish Website: <https://www.croomparish.com/>
 Diocesan Web Page: www.limerickdiocese.org
 Link for Live Church Services:
 Croom Parish - ChurchCamLive.ie
 Banogue Parish - ChurchCamLive.ie
 Croom Church Eircode: V35 R972
 Banogue Church Eircode: V35 WN59
 Croom Hospital Mass Sunday 8 a.m. Thursday 11 a.m. Followed by Holy Hour.
 Public Welcome
 Last Sundays Offertory Collection: Banogue €425
 Croom €1,000



A special thanks to all those who attended the Holy Week Devotions and the Easter Vigil Ceremony. A special mention for those who set up the Easter gardens and decorated the Altar and its surrounds. We acknowledge the great work of our Sacristans and those who cleaned the Church. To all those who were involved in the various liturgies i.e. Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and the Collectors. Again we are indebted to all who support the offertory collections as well as the dues collections. As we are all well aware Easter is the most important Church feast of the year and strengthens our belief that Jesus has risen from the dead for our sakes and has given us the promise that death is not the end experience but the prelude to a glorious existence. Therefore we rejoice in the age old Easter Greeting: "Christ has Risen" alleluia.

Easter Dues Collection

This collection is being taken up at the Easter masses. We thank our Parishioners for supporting the Banogue and Croom Churches and for the support of the Priests. We would like to make parishioners aware that they can also make financial contributions to the Church and Clergy through the DONATE button on the website

<https://www.croomparish.com/>. Your generosity to the Parish is important and we are grateful for your continued support.



Divine Mercy Sunday – April 7th
 Redemptorist Church, Limerick: Devotions 2.30pm – 5.45pm; Mass 4.45pm
 Devotions include Veneration of the Relic of St Faustina
 Charleville Church: Devotions begin at 3.00pm



Trocaire Boxes

Thank you for supporting our Trocaire campaign during the season of Lent and we ask you to return the trocaire boxes to Banogue and Croom Churches by Sunday 14th April 2024.

Prayer/Reflection

We feel sad at the onset of winter. But we are not too despondent, because we know that spring takes the sting out of winter, so the resurrection of Jesus takes the sting out of death for us. God of power and love, through the resurrection of your Son you have kindled in our hearts the hope of eternal life. Guard this hope with your grace and bring it to fulfilment in the kingdom of heaven.

We wish all our Parishioners at home and abroad a very happy Easter and that this feast will bring about renewed hope and encouragement.



THE EASTER VIGIL
 in the Holy Night

On Holy Saturday the Church waits at the Lord's tomb in prayer and fasting, meditating on his Passion and Death and on his Descent into Hell, and awaiting his Resurrection.

I. THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

All the lights in the church are extinguished. Fire is prepared in a suitable place outside the church. When the people have assembled the priest and the ministers go there, one of whom carries the paschal candle. The priest greets the people in these or similar words:

Dear brethren (brothers and sisters), on this most sacred night, in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, the Church calls upon her sons and daughters, scattered throughout the world, to come together to watch and pray. If we keep the memorial of the Lord's paschal solemnity in this way, listening to his word and celebrating his mysteries, then we shall have the sure hope of sharing his triumph over death and living with him in God.

Then the Priest blesses the fire.

Let us pray.
 O God, who through your Son bestowed upon the faithful the fire of your glory, sanctify this new fire, we pray, and grant that, by these paschal celebrations, we may be so inflamed with heavenly desires, that with minds made pure we may attain festivities of unending splendour. Through Christ our Lord.
 Amen.

After the blessing of the new fire, one of the ministers brings the paschal candle to the Priest, who cuts a cross into the candle with a stylus. Then he makes the Greek letter Alpha above the cross, the letter Omega below and the four numerals of the current year, saying meanwhile:

1. Christ yesterday and today;	
2. the Beginning and the End;	
3. the Alpha;	
4. and the Omega	A
5. All time belongs to him;	2 0
6. and all the ages.	2 4
7. To him be glory and power;	Ω
8. through every age and for ever.	

Amen.
 The Priest may insert five grains of incense into the candle in the form of a cross, meanwhile saying:

1. By his holy	1
2. and glorious wounds,	4 2 5
3. may Christ the Lord	3
4. guard us	
5. and protect us.	

Amen.
 The Priest lights the paschal candle from the new fire, saying:

May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

PROCESSION

At the door of the church the Deacon, raising up the candle, sings:

The Light of Christ.

And all reply:

Thanks be to God.

The Priest lights his candle from the flame of the paschal candle.

Then the Deacon moves forward to the middle of the church and raising up the candle, sings a second time:

The Light of Christ.

And all reply:

Thanks be to God.

All light their candles from the flame of the paschal candle and continue in procession.

When the Deacon arrives before the altar, he stands facing the people, raises up the candle and sings a third time:

The Light of Christ.

And all reply:

Thanks be to God.

All lights are lit throughout the church, except for the altar candles.

The Easter Proclamation

(Exultet – Shorter Form)

Exult, let them exult, the hosts of heaven, exult, let Angel ministers of God exult, let the trumpet of salvation sound aloud our mighty King's triumph. Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her, ablaze with light from her eternal King, let all corners of the earth be glad, knowing an end to gloom and darkness. Rejoice, let Mother Church also rejoice, arrayed with the lightning of his glory, let this holy building shake with joy, filled with the mighty voices of the peoples.

(The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.)

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is truly right and just,

with ardent love of mind and heart and with devoted service of our voice, to acclaim our God invisible, the almighty Father, and Jesus Christ, our Lord, his Son, his Only Begotten.

Who for our sake paid Adam's debt to the eternal Father, and, pouring out his own dear Blood, wiped clean the record of our ancient sinfulness.

These then are the feasts of Passover, in which is slain the Lamb, the one true Lamb, whose Blood anoints the doorposts of believers.

This is the night, when once you led our forebears,

Israel's children, from slavery in Egypt and made them pass dry-shod through the Red Sea.

This is the night that with a pillar of fire banished the darkness of sin.

This is the night that even now, throughout the world, sets Christian believers apart from worldly vices and from the gloom of sin, leading them to grace and joining them to his holy ones.

This is the night,

when Christ broke the prison-bars of death and rose victorious from the underworld.

O wonder of your humble care for us! O love, O charity beyond all telling, to ransom a slave you gave away your Son! O truly necessary sin of Adam, destroyed completely by the Death of Christ!

O happy fault that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer! The sanctifying power of this night dispels wickedness, washes faults away, restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners.

O truly blessed night, when things of heaven are wed to those of earth, and divine to the human.

On this, your night of grace, O holy Father, accept this candle, a solemn offering, the work of bees and of your servants' hands, an evening sacrifice of praise, this gift from your most holy Church.

Therefore, O Lord, we pray you that this candle, hallowed to the honour of your name, may persevere undimmed, to overcome the darkness of this night. Receive it as a pleasing fragrance, and let it mingle with the lights of heaven. May this flame be found still burning by the Morning Star: the one Morning Star who never sets, Christ your Son, who, coming back from death's domain, has shed his peaceful light on humanity, and lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

II. THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

After setting aside their candles, all sit. Before the readings begin, the Priest instructs the people in these or similar words:

Dear brethren (brothers and sisters), now that we have begun our solemn Vigil, let us listen with quiet hearts to the Word of God. Let us meditate on how God in times past saved his people and in these, the last days, has sent us his Son as our Redeemer. Let us pray that our God may complete this paschal work of salvation by the fullness of redemption.

Then the readings follow. A reader goes to the ambo and proclaims the reading. Afterwards a psalmist or a cantor sings or says the Psalm with the people making the response. Then all rise, the Priest says, Let us pray, and after all have prayed for a while in silence, he says the prayer corresponding to the reading. In place of the Responsorial Psalm a period of sacred silence may be observed, in which case the pause after Let us pray is omitted.

FIRST READING Gen 1:1-2:2
(For Shorter Form, read between # 4.)
A reading from the book of Genesis.

God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good.

◆ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ◆ Now the earth was a formless void, there was darkness over the deep, and God's spirit hovered over the water.

God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. God saw that light was good, and God divided light from darkness. God called light 'day,' and darkness he called 'night.' Evening came and morning came: the first day.

God said, 'Let there be a vault in the waters to divide the waters in two.' And so it was. God made the vault, and it divided the waters above the vault from the waters under the vault. God called the vault 'heaven.' Evening came and morning came: the second day.

God said, 'Let the waters under heaven come together into a single mass, and let dry land appear.' And so it was. God called the dry land 'earth' and the mass of waters 'seas,' and God saw that it was good.

God said, 'Let the earth produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants, and fruit trees bearing fruit with their seed inside, on the earth.' And so it was. The earth produced vegetation: plants bearing seed in their several kinds, and trees bearing fruit with their seed inside in their several kinds. God saw that it was good. Evening came and morning came: the third day.

God said, 'Let there be lights in the vault of heaven to divide day from night, and let them indicate festivals, days and years. Let them be lights in the vault of heaven to shine on the earth.' And so it was. God made the two great lights: the greater light to govern the day, the smaller light to govern the night, and the stars. God set them in the vault of heaven to shine on the earth, to govern the day and the night and to divide light from darkness.

God said, 'Let there be lights in the vault of heaven to divide day from night, and let them indicate festivals, days and years. Let them be lights in the vault of heaven to shine on the earth.' And so it was. God made the two great lights: the greater light to govern the day, the smaller light to govern the night, and the stars. God set them in the vault of heaven to shine on the earth, to govern the day and the night and to divide light from darkness.

20

Easter Triduum

God saw that it was good. Evening came and morning came: the fourth day.

God said, 'Let the waters teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth within the vault of heaven.' And so it was. God created great sea-serpents and every kind of living creature with which the waters teem, and every kind of winged creature. God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying 'Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the waters of the seas; and let the birds multiply upon the earth.' Evening came and morning came: the fifth day.

God said, 'Let the earth produce every kind of living creature: cattle, reptiles, and every kind of wild beast.' And so it was. God made every kind of wild beast, every kind of cattle, and every kind of land reptile. God saw that it was good.

◆ God said, 'Let us make man in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves, and let them be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven, the cattle, all the wild beasts and all the reptiles that crawl upon the earth.'

God created man in the image of himself, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying to them, 'Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and conquer it. Be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven and all living animals on the earth.' God said, 'See, I give you all the seed-bearing plants that are upon the whole earth, and all the trees with seed-bearing fruit; this shall be your food. To all wild beasts, all birds of heaven and all living reptiles on the earth I give all the foliage of plants for food.' And so it was. God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good. ◆ Evening came and morning came: the sixth day.

Thus heaven and earth were completed with all their array. On the seventh day God completed the work he had been doing. He rested on the seventh day after all the work he had been doing.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 103:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12-14, 24, 35

◆ **Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.**

1. Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe! ◆

For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay. ◆
3. You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever. ◆

All stand for the prayer.

Let us pray.

O God, supreme Father of the faithful, who increase the children of your promise by pouring out the grace of adoption throughout the whole world and who through the Paschal Mystery make your servant Abraham father of nations, as once you swore, grant, we pray, that your peoples may enter worthily into the grace to which you call them. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The following reading is obligatory.

THIRD READING Ex 14:15-15:1
A reading from the book of Exodus.

The sons of Israel went on dry ground right into the sea.

The Lord said to Moses, 'Why do you cry to me so? Tell sons of Israel to march on. For yourself, raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and part it for the sons of Israel to walk through the sea on dry ground. I for my part will make the heart of the Egyptians so stubborn that they will follow them. So shall I win myself glory at the expense of Pharaoh, of all his army, his chariots, his horsemen. And when I have won glory for myself, at the expense of Pharaoh and his chariots and his army, the Egyptians will learn that I am the Lord.'

Then the angel of the Lord, who marched at the front of the army of Israel, changed station and moved to their rear. The pillar of cloud changed station from the front to the rear of them, and remained there. It came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. The cloud was dark, and the night passed without the armies drawing any closer the whole night long. Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove back the sea with a strong easterly wind all night, and he made dry land of the sea. The waters parted and the sons of Israel went on dry ground right into the sea, walls of water to right and to left of them. The Egyptians gave chase: after them

22

Easter Triduum

they went, right into the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. In the morning watch, the Lord looked down on the army of the Egyptians from the pillar of fire and of cloud, and threw the army into confusion. He so clogged their chariot wheels that they could scarcely make headway. 'Let us flee from the Israelites,' the Egyptians cried 'the Lord is fighting for them against the Egyptians!' 'Stretch out your hand over the sea,' the Lord said to Moses 'that the waters may flow back on the Egyptians and their chariots and their horsemen.' Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and, as day broke, the sea returned to its bed. The fleeing Egyptians marched right into it, and the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the very middle of the sea. The returning waters overwhelmed the chariots and the horsemen of Pharaoh's whole army, which had followed the Israelites into the sea; not a single one of them was left. But the sons of Israel had marched through the sea on dry ground, walls of water to right and to left of them. That day, the Lord rescued Israel from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. Israel witnessed the great act that the Lord had performed against the Egyptians, and the people venerated the Lord, they put their faith in the Lord and in Moses, his servant.

It was then that Moses and the sons of Israel sang this song in honour of the Lord:

The Responsorial Psalm follows immediately.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ex 15:1-6, 17-18

◆ **I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph!**

1. I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph!
Horse and rider he has thrown into the sea!
The Lord is my strength, my song,
my salvation.

This is my God and I extol him,
my father's God and I give him praise. ◆

2. The Lord is a warrior! The Lord is his name.
The chariots of Pharaoh he hurled into the sea.

the flower of his army is drowned in the sea. The deeps hide them; they sank like a stone.

3. Your right hand, Lord, glorious in its power,
your right hand, Lord, has shattered the enemy.
In the greatness of your glory you crushed the foe. ◆

2. You founded the earth on its base, to stand firm from age to age.
You wrapped it with the ocean like a cloak:
the waters stood higher than the mountains. ◆

3. You make springs gush forth in the valleys: they flow in between the hills.
On their banks dwell the birds of heaven; from the branches they sing their song. ◆

4. From your dwelling you water the hills; earth drinks its fill of your gift.
You make the grass grow for the cattle and the plants to serve man's needs. ◆

5. How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your riches.
Bless the Lord, my soul! ◆

All stand for the prayer.
Let us pray.
Almighty ever-living God, who are wonderful in the ordering of all your works, may those you have redeemed understand that there exists nothing more marvellous than the world's creation in the beginning except that, at the end of the ages, Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

SECOND READING Gen 22:1-18
(For Shorter Form, read between # 4.)
A reading from the book of Genesis.

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

◆ God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham,' he called. 'Here I am!' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said, 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

Rising early next morning Abraham saddled his ass and took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. He chopped wood for the burnt offering and started on his journey to the place God had pointed out to him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. Then Abraham said to his servants, 'Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go over there; we will worship and come back to you.'

Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering,

and my covenant of peace with you will never be shaken, says the Lord who takes pity on you. Unhappy creature, storm-tossed, disconsolate, see, I will set your stones on carbuncles and your foundations on sapphires. I will make rubies your battlements, your gates crystal, and your entire wall precious stones. Your sons will all be taught by the Lord. The prosperity of your sons will be great. You will be founded on integrity; remote from oppression, you will have nothing to fear; remote from terror, it will not approach you.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 15:5, 8-11

◆ **Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.**

1. O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. ◆
2. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.

The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

21

4. You will lead your people and plant them on your mountain,
the place, O Lord, where you have made your home,
the sanctuary, Lord, which your hands have made.
The Lord will reign for ever and ever. ◆

All stand for the prayer.
Let us pray.

O God, whose ancient wonders remain undimmed in splendour even in our day, for what you once bestowed on a single people, freeing them from Pharaoh's persecution by the power of your right hand, now you bring about as the salvation of the nations through the waters of rebirth, grant, we pray, that the whole world may become children of Abraham and inherit the dignity of Israel's birthright. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

FOURTH READING Is 54:5-14
A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

With everlasting love the Lord your redeemer has taken pity on you.

Thus says the Lord:

Now your creator will be your husband, his name, the Lord of hosts; your redeemer will be the Holy One of Israel, he is called the God of the whole earth. Yes, like a forsaken wife, distressed in spirit, the Lord calls you back. Does a man cast off the wife of his youth? says your God. I did forsake you for a brief moment, but with great love will I take you back. In excess of anger, for a moment I hid my face from you. But with everlasting love I have taken pity on you, says the Lord, your redeemer.

I am now as I was in the days of Noah when I swore that Noah's waters should never flood the world again. So now I swear concerning my anger with you, and the threats I made against you; for the mountains may depart, the hills be shaken, but my love for you will never leave you

loaded it on Isaac, and carried in his own hands the fire and the knife. Then the two of them set out together. Isaac spoke to his father Abraham. 'Father,' he said. 'Yes, my son,' he replied. 'Look,' he said 'here are the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?' Abraham answered, 'My son, God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering.' Then the two of them went on together.

◆ When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, 'Abraham, Abraham!' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

Abraham called this place 'The Lord provides', and hence the saying today. On the mountain the Lord provides.

◆ The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self - it is the Lord who speaks - because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will show blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 15:5, 8-11

◆ **Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.**

1. O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. ◆
2. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.

21

and my covenant of peace with you will never be shaken, says the Lord who takes pity on you. Unhappy creature, storm-tossed, disconsolate, see, I will set your stones on carbuncles and your foundations on sapphires. I will make rubies your battlements, your gates crystal, and your entire wall precious stones. Your sons will all be taught by the Lord. The prosperity of your sons will be great. You will be founded on integrity; remote from oppression, you will have nothing to fear; remote from terror, it will not approach you.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 29:2, 4-6, 11-13

◆ **I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me.**

1. I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me and have not let my enemies rejoice over me. O Lord, you have raised my soul from the dead, restored me to life from those who sink into the grave. ◆

2. Sing psalms to the Lord, you who love him, give thanks to his holy name. His anger lasts but a moment; his favour flows through life. At night there are tears, but joy comes with dawn. ◆

3. The Lord listened and had pity. The Lord came to my help. For me you have changed my mourning into dancing. O Lord my God, I will thank you for ever. ◆

All stand for the prayer.
Let us pray.

Almighty ever-living God, surpass, for the honour of your name, what you pledged to the Patriarchs by reason of their faith, and through sacred adoption increase the children of your promise, so that what the Saints of old never doubted would come to pass your Church may now see in great part fulfilled. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

22

The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

23

FIFTH READING

Is 55:1-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Come to me and your soul will live, and I will make an everlasting covenant with you.

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David. See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples,

a leader and a master of the nations. See, you will summon a nation you never knew,

those unknown will come hurrying to you, for the sake of the Lord your God, of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you. Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,

to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Is 12:2-6

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

- 1. Truly God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear. For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples, declare the greatness of his name.
3. Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth! People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

All stand for the prayer.

Let us pray.

Almighty ever-living God, sole hope of the world, who by the preaching of your Prophets unveiled the mysteries of this present age, graciously increase the longing of your people, for only at the prompting of your grace do the faithful progress in any kind of virtue. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SIXTH READING

Bar 3:9-15, 32-4:4

A reading from the prophet Baruch.

In the radiance of the Lord make your way to light.

Listen, Israel, to commands that bring life; hear, and learn what knowledge means. Why, Israel, why are you in the country of your enemies, growing older and older in an alien land, sharing defilement with the dead, reckoned with those who go to Sheol? Because you have forsaken the fountain of wisdom.

Had you walked in the way of God, you would have lived in peace for ever. Learn where knowledge is, where strength, where understanding, and so learn where length of days is, where life, where the light of the eyes and where peace.

But who has found out where she lives, who has entered her treasure house? But the One who knows all knows her, he has grasped her with his own intellect, he has set the earth firm for ever and filled it with four-footed beasts, he sends the light – and it goes; he recalls it – and trembling it obeys; the stars shine joyfully at their set times: when he calls them, they answer, 'Here we are'; they gladly shine for their creator. It is he who is our God, no other can compare with him. He has grasped the whole way of knowledge, and confided it to his servant Jacob, to Israel his well-beloved; so causing her to appear on earth and move among men.

This is the book of the commandments of God, the Law that stands for ever; those who keep her live, those who desert her die.

Turn back, Jacob, seize her, in her radiance make your way to light: do not yield your glory to another, your privilege to a people not your own. Israel, blessed are we:

what pleases God has been revealed to us.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 18:8-11

You have the message of eternal life, O Lord.

- 1. The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul. The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple.
2. The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart. The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes.
3. The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever. The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just.
4. They are more to be desired than gold, than the purest of gold and sweeter are they than honey, than honey from the comb.

All stand for the prayer.

Let us pray.

O God, who constantly increase your Church by your call to the nations, graciously grant to those who wash clean in the waters of Baptism the assurance of your unfailing protection. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SEVENTH READING

Ezk 36:16-28

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel.

I shall pour clean water over you, and I shall give you a new heart.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'Son of man, the members of the House of Israel used to live in their own land, but they defiled it by their conduct and actions. I then discharged my fury at them because of the blood they shed in their land and the idols with which they defiled it. I scattered them among the nations and dispersed them in foreign countries. I sentenced them as their conduct and actions deserved. And now they have profaned my holy name among the nations where they have gone, so that people say of them, "These are the people of the Lord; they have been exiled from his land." But I have been concerned about my holy name, which the House of Israel has profaned among the nations where they have gone. And so, say to the House of Israel, "The Lord says this: I am not doing this for your sake, House of Israel, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. I mean to display the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned among them. And the nations will learn that I am the Lord – it is the Lord who speaks – when I display my holiness for your sake before their eyes. Then I am going to take you from among the nations and gather you together from all the foreign countries, and bring you home to your own land. I shall pour clean water over you and you will be cleansed; I shall cleanse you of all your defilement and all your idols. I shall give you a new heart, and put a new spirit in you; I shall remove the heart of stone from your bodies and give you a heart of flesh instead. I shall put my spirit in you, and make you keep my laws and sincerely respect my observances. You will live in the land which I gave your ancestors. You shall be my people and I will be your God."

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 41:3, 5, 42:3, 4

Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God.

- 1. My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life; when can I enter and see the face of God?
2. These things will I remember as I pour out my soul: how I would lead the rejoicing crowd into the house of God, amid cries of gladness and thanksgiving, the throng wild with joy.
3. O send forth your light and your truth; let these be my guide. Let them bring me to your holy mountain to the place where you dwell.
4. And I will come to the altar of God, the God of my joy, My redeemer, I will thank you on the harp, O God, my God.

If a Baptism takes place, the Responsorial Psalm which follows the Fifth Reading above (page 23) is used, or Ps 50 as follows.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 50:12-15, 18-19

A pure heart create for me, O God.

- 1. A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit.
2. Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me, that I may teach transgressors your ways and sinners may return to you.
3. For in sacrifice you take no delight, burnt offering from me you would refuse, my sacrifice, a contrite spirit. A humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn.

All stand for the prayer.

Let us pray.

O God of unchanging power and eternal light, look with favour on the wondrous mystery of the whole Church and serenely accomplish the work of human salvation, which you planned from all eternity;

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

After the Epistle all stand. The priest solemnly intones the Alleluia which is repeated by all.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 117:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- 1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end. Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.'
2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up. I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds.
3. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.

GOSPEL

Mk 16:1-7

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified, has risen.

When the sabbath was over, Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices with which to go and anoint him. And very early in the morning on the first day of the week they went to the tomb, just as the sun was rising. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' But when they looked they could see that the stone – which was very big – had already been rolled back. On entering the tomb they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right-hand side, and they were struck with amazement. But he said to them, 'There is no need for alarm. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified: he has risen, he is not here. See, here is the place where they laid him. But you must go and tell his disciples and Peter, "He is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him, just as he told you."

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

III. THE LITURGY OF BAPTISM

The Priest makes an introductory statement in these or similar words:

If there are candidates to be baptised:

Dear beloved, with one heart and one soul, let us by our prayers come to the aid of these our brothers and sisters in their blessed hope, so that, as they approach the font of rebirth, the almighty Father may bestow on them all his merciful help.

If the font is to be blessed, but no one is to be baptised:

Dear beloved, let us humbly invoke upon this font the grace of God the almighty Father, that those who from it are born anew may be numbered among the children of adoption in Christ.

All present stand and answer: If there is no one to be baptised and the font is not to be blessed the litany is omitted, and the Blessing of Water takes place at once. (See page 27).

Table with 2 columns: Prayers and Responses. Prayers include: Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Saint Michael, Holy angels of God, Saint John the Baptist, Saint Joseph, Saint Peter and Saint Paul, Saint Andrew, Saint John, Saint Mary Magdalene, Saint Stephen, Saint Ignatius of Antioch, Saint Lawrence, Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicity, Saint Agnes, Saint Gregory, Saint Augustine, Saint Athanasius, Saint Basil, Saint Martin, Saint Benedict, Saint Francis and Saint Dominic, Saint Francis Xavier, Saint John Vianney.

Saint Catherine of Siena, *
 Saint Teresa of Jesus, *
 All holy men and women, Saints of God,
 Lord, be merciful, * **Lord, deliver us, we pray.**
 From all evil, *
 From every sin, *
 From everlasting death, *
 By your Incarnation, *
 By your Death and Resurrection, *
 By the outpouring of the Holy Spirit,
 Be merciful to us sinners,
Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.
If there are candidates to be baptised:
 Bring these chosen ones to new birth through
 the grace of Baptism,
Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.
If there is no one to be baptised:
 Make this font holy by your grace for the new birth
 of your children,
Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.
 Jesus, Son of the living God,
Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.
 Christ, hear us. Christ, hear us.
 Christ, graciously hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.
*If there are candidates to be baptised, the Priest
 says the following prayer:*
 Almighty ever-living God,
 be present by the mysteries of your great love
 and send forth the spirit of adoption
 to create the new peoples
 brought to birth for you in the font of Baptism,
 so that what is to be carried out by our
 humble service
 may be brought to fulfillment by your
 mighty power.
 Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing of Baptismal Water
*The Priest then blesses the baptismal water, saying the
 following prayer:*
 O God, who by invisible power
 accomplish a wondrous effect
 through sacramental signs
 and who in many ways have prepared water,
 your creation,
 to show forth the grace of Baptism;
 O God, whose Spirit
 in the first moments of the world's creation
 hovered over the waters,
 so that the very substance of water

would even then take to itself the power
 to sanctify;
 O God, who by the outpouring of the flood
 foreshadowed regeneration,
 so that from the mystery of one and the same
 element of water
 would come an end to vice and a beginning
 of virtue;
 O God, who caused the children of Abraham
 to pass dry-shod through the Red Sea,
 so that the chosen people,
 set free from slavery to Pharaoh,
 would prefigure the people of the baptised;
 O God, whose Son,
 baptised by John in the waters of the Jordan,
 was anointed with the Holy Spirit,
 and, as he hung upon the Cross,
 gave forth water from his side along with blood,
 and after his Resurrection, commanded
 his disciples:
 "Go forth, teach all nations, baptising them
 in the name of the Father and of the Son
 and of the Holy Spirit,"
 look now, we pray, upon the face of your Church
 and graciously unseal for her the fountain
 of Baptism.
 May this water receive by the Holy Spirit
 the grace of your Only Begotten Son,
 so that human nature, created in your image
 and washed clean through the Sacrament
 of Baptism
 from all the squalor of the life of old,
 may be found worthy to rise to the life of newborn
 children
 through water and the Holy Spirit.
*And, if appropriate, lowering the paschal candle
 into the water either once or three times, he
 continues:*
 May the power of the Holy Spirit,
 O Lord, we pray,
 come down through your Son
 into the fullness of this font,
and, holding the candle in the water, he continues:
 so that all who have been buried with Christ
 by Baptism into death
 may rise again to life with him.
 Who lives and reigns with you in the unity
 of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

who has given us new birth by water and
 the Holy Spirit
 and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins,
 keep us by his grace,
 in Christ Jesus our Lord,
 for eternal life.
Amen.
*The Priest sprinkles the people with the blessed water,
 while all sing:*
Antiphon
 I saw water flowing from the Temple,
 from its right-hand side, alleluia;
 and all to whom this water came were saved
 and shall say: Alleluia, alleluia.
*Another chant that is baptismal in character may also be
 sung.*

IV. THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Prayer over the Offerings
 Accept, we ask, O Lord,
 the prayers of your people
 with the sacrificial offerings,
 that what has begun in the paschal mysteries
 may, by the working of your power,
 bring us to the healing of eternity.
 Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Preface I of Easter
 The Lord be with you.
 And with your spirit.
 Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 It is right and just.
 It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
 at all times to acclaim you, O Lord,
 but on this night above all
 to laud you yet more gloriously,
 when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.
 For he is the true Lamb
 who has taken away the sins of the world;
 by dying he has destroyed our death,
 and by rising, restored our life.
 Therefore, overcome with paschal joy,
 every land, every people exults in your praise
 and even the heavenly Powers,
 with the angelic hosts,
 sing together the unending hymn of your glory,
 as they acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts ...

*Eucharistic Prayer I – page 6.
 Eucharistic Prayer II – page 8.*

After the Consecration

The mystery of faith.
**We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
 and profess your Resurrection
 until you come again.**
Communion Antiphon *1 Cor 5:7-8*
 Christ our Passover has been sacrificed;
 therefore let us keep the feast
 with the unleavened bread of purity
 and truth, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

Pour out on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love,
 and in your kindness make those you
 have nourished
 by this paschal Sacrament
 one in mind and heart.
 Through Christ our Lord.
Amen

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Solemn Blessing

The Priest invites people to bow down for the blessing.
 May almighty God bless you
 through today's Easter Solemnity
 and, in his compassion,
 defend you from every assault of sin.
Amen.
 And may he, who restores you to eternal life
 in the Resurrection of his Only Begotten,
 endow you with the prize of immortality.
Amen.
 Now that the days of the Lord's Passion have
 drawn to a close,
 may you who celebrate the gladness of the
 Paschal Feast
 come with Christ's help, and exulting in spirit,
 to those feasts that are celebrated in eternal joy.
Amen.
 And may the blessing of almighty God,
 the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
 come down on you and remain with you for ever.
Amen.
 Go forth, the Mass is ended, alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.

*Then the candle is lifted out of the water, as the
 people acclaim:*

Springs of water, bless the Lord; praise and exalt him above all for ever.

*Those who are to be baptised renounce the devil
 individually. Then they are questioned about their faith
 and are baptised. Adults are confirmed immediately after
 baptism if a bishop, or a priest with the faculty to confirm,
 is present.*

The Blessing of Water

*If no one present is to be baptised and the font is not
 to be blessed, the Priest introduces the faithful to the
 blessing of water, saying:*
 Dear brothers and sisters,
 let us humbly beseech the Lord our God
 to bless this water he has created,
 which will be sprinkled upon us
 as a memorial of our Baptism.
 May he graciously renew us,
 that we may remain faithful to the Spirit
 whom we have received.

*And after a brief pause in silence, he proclaims the
 following prayer:*

Lord our God,
 in your mercy be present to your people
 who keep vigil on this most sacred night,
 and, for us who recall the wondrous work
 of our creation
 and the still greater work of our redemption,
 graciously bless this water.
 For you created water to make the fields fruitful
 and to refresh and cleanse our bodies.
 You also made water the instrument of
 your mercy:
 for through water you freed your people
 from slavery
 and quenched their thirst in the desert;
 through water the Prophets proclaimed the
 new covenant
 you were to enter upon with the human race;
 and last of all,
 through water, which Christ made holy in
 the Jordan,
 you have renewed our corrupted nature
 in the bath of regeneration.
 Therefore, may this water be for us
 a memorial of the Baptism we have received,
 and grant that we may share
 in the gladness of our brothers and sisters,
 who at Easter have received their Baptism.
 Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Renewal of Baptismal Promises

*When the Rite of Baptism (and Confirmation) has been
 completed or, if this has not taken place, after the
 blessing of water, all stand, holding lighted candles in
 their hands, and renew the promise of baptismal faith,
 unless this has already been done together with those to
 be baptised.*

*The Priest addresses the faithful in these or similar
 words:*

Dear brethren (brothers and sisters),
 through the Paschal Mystery
 we have been buried with Christ in Baptism,
 so that we may walk with him in newness of life.
 And so, now that our Lenten observance
 is concluded,
 let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism,
 by which we once renounced Satan and his works
 and promised to serve God in the holy
 Catholic Church.
 And so I ask you:
 Do you renounce Satan? **I do.**
 And all his works? **I do.**
 And all his empty show? **I do.**
Or:
 Do you renounce sin,
 so as to live in the freedom of the children
 of God? **I do.**
 Do you renounce the lure of evil,
 so that sin may have no mastery over you? **I do.**
 Do you renounce Satan,
 the author and prince of sin? **I do.**
Then the Priest continues:
 Do you believe in God,
 the Father almighty,
 Creator of heaven and earth? **I do.**
 Do you believe in Jesus Christ,
 his only Son, our Lord,
 who was born of the Virgin Mary,
 suffered death and was buried,
 rose again from the dead
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father? **I do.**
 Do you believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy Catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and life everlasting? **I do.**
And the Priest concludes:
 And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord
 Jesus Christ,



Hymns

- 1. I Am the Bread of Life** *(Hosanna! 65)*
 - I am the Bread of Life.
 You who come to me shall not hunger,
 and who believe in me shall not thirst.
 No one can come to me
 unless the Father beckon.
*And I will raise you up,
 and I will raise you up on the last day.*
 - The bread that I will give is my flesh
 for the life of the world,
 and if you eat of this bread,
 you shall live forever,
 you shall live forever.
 - Unless you eat
 of the flesh of the Son of Man
 and drink of his blood,
 and drink of his blood,
 you shall not have life within you.
- 2. The Lord Jesus** *(A.A. p. 82)*
*The Lord Jesus, after eating with his friends,
 washed their feet and said to them,
 'Do you know what I, your Lord, have done to
 you?
 I have given you example, that so you also
 should do.'*
 - You are my friends; a man can have no
 greater love
 than to give his life for his friends.
 - Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to all
 who live
 with boundless love for all mankind.
 - I am the vine and you the branch,
 remain in me
 and you will bear abundant fruit.
- 3. Where There is Charity** *(A.A. p. 93)*
*Where there is charity and love,
 there the God of love abides.*
 - The love of Christ has gathered us as one;
 Rejoice in him with joy which he imparts.
 Let us reverse and love the living God,
 And love each other with unfeigning hearts.
- 2. And so when we are gathered here as one,
 Let quarrels die and envious rancour cease.
 Be our resolve all bitterness to shun
 And in our midst be Christ, his love
 and peace.**
 - O lead us, Master by your saving grace
 To where the blessed glory in your sight.
 There let us see and love you face to face,
 Gathered once more in everlasting light.
- 4. Love is His Word** *(V.H. No. 20)*
 Love is his word, love is his way,
 Feasting with men, fasting alone,
 Living and dying, rising again,
 Love, only love, is his way.
*Richer than gold is the love of my Lord:
 Better than splendour and wealth.*
 - Love is his way, love is his mark,
 Sharing his last Passover feast,
 Christ at his table, host to the twelve,
 Love, only love, is his mark.
 - Love is his mark, love is his sign,
 Bread for our strength, wine for our joy,
 'This is my body, this is my blood',
 Love, only love, is his sign.
 - Love is his sign, love is his news,
 'Do this,' he said, 'lest you forget
 all my deep sorrow, all my dear blood.'
 Love, only love, is his news.
- 5. Come and Let Us Drink** *(V.H. No. 100)*
 - Come and let us drink of that new river,
 Not from barren rock divinely poured,
 But the fount of life that springs forever
 From the sacred body of our Lord.
 - Now the world has bright illumination,
 Heaven and all things upon the earth:
 Risen is the God of all creation,
 Christ the Lord who gave creation birth.
 - Yesterday with you in burial lying,
 Now with you in triumph I arise,
 Yesterday the partner of your dying,
 Raise me with you far beyond the skies.
(Cont'd on back page)

6. Stay With Us Lord (V.H. No. 24)

Stay with us Lord we pray you, alleluia.

1. You are the bread come down from heaven;
You are the food of life eternal.
2. You are the light which illumines the world.
Brightening our way, dispelling our darkness.
3. You are the Christ the divine Son of God.
You are the pledge of life eternal.

7. Keep in Mind (A.A. p. 65)

*Keep in mind that Jesus Christ has died for us
and is risen from the dead.*

He is our saving Lord; he is joy for all ages.

1. If we die with the Lord, we shall live with
the Lord.
2. If we endure with the Lord, we shall reign with
the Lord.
3. In him all our sorrow, in him all our joy.
4. In him hope of glory, in him all our love.
5. In him our redemption, in him all our grace.
6. In him our salvation, in him all our peace.

8. This is My Will (V.H. No. 25)

1. This is my will, my one command,
That love should dwell among you all.
This is my will, that you should love
As I have shown that I love you.
2. No greater love a man can have
Than that he die to save his friends.
You are my friends if you obey
What I command that you should do.
3. I call you now no longer slaves;
No slave knows all his master does.
I call you friends, for all I hear
My Father say, you hear from me.

4. You chose not me, but I chose you,
That you should go and bear much fruit.
I chose you out that you in me
Should bear much fruit that will abide.

5. All that you ask my Father dear
For my name's sake you shall receive.
This is my will, my one command,
That love should dwell in each, in all.

9. Come Christians All Rejoice (V.H. No. 101)

1. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Come Christians all, rejoice and sing,
With thankful hearts your praises bring,
Risen is now our Lord and King. Alleluia.

2. On Sunday morn, at break of day,
the sad disciples made their way,
Seeking the place where Jesus lay.

3. Now let us thank the Lord most high,
And with our praises fill the sky,
For Christ is risen, no more to die.

10. Christ is Our Lord (A.A. p. 73)

Christ is our Lord, he gives us life abundant.

Christ is our joy we are one in him.

1. When the time had come to return to
his Father
and knowing that his hour was drawing near,
He longed to share the Pasch with his friends.
2. That he might celebrate the new cov'nant with
all men.
The Lord gives his body and his blood,
To reconcile all men to God once more.
3. The cross of Christ brings joy and salvation
to all.
Our sins he has borne upon the tree.
His death brought life, and set his people free.