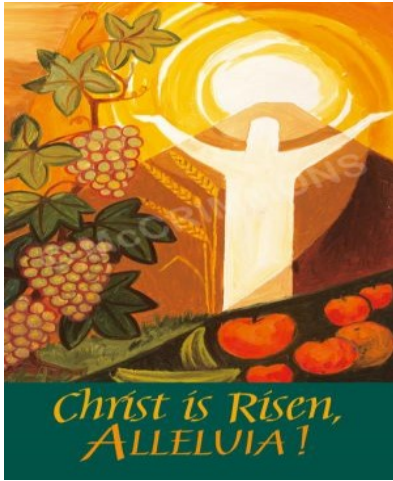


# Thoughts and Prayers for the Week

## Sunday 23rd April 2023



### 3rd Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ,  
you filled your disciples  
with boldness and fresh hope:  
strengthen us to proclaim  
your risen life  
and fill us with your peace,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen



### Readings this week:

Acts 2: 14a, 36-41

Psalms 116: 1-3, 10-17

1 Peter 1: 17-23

Luke 24: 13-35

### Alleluia...

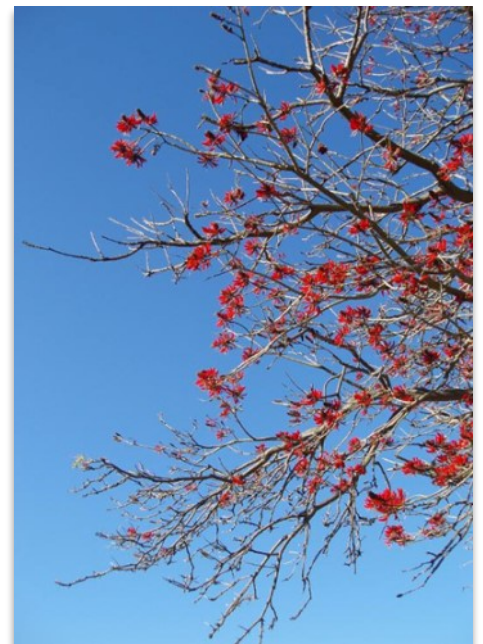
Most of us, probably, are aware that Lent is a season of 40 days. But perhaps fewer of us realise that in the calendar of Western Christianity, as it has developed over time, Easter lasts longer, for 50 days until Pentecost, marking the 40 days between Christ's resurrection and ascension and a further 10 days before the celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit.

We are used to thinking of Easter Day as a singular event of joy and pay less attention to Eastertide as a continuous, seven-week festival period: we don't always sustain that sense of rejoicing through the various 'Sundays of Easter'.

Yet in the Christian year this prolonged period should be a time to feel particularly positive and hopeful in our faith. So, as we progress through Eastertide this year, let's try to be joyous in our thoughts and prayers.

It's a wonderful time to read – and sing – Psalm 100, the *Jubilate Deo*:

*O be joyful in the Lord, all the earth;  
serve the Lord with gladness  
and come before his presence with a song.  
Know that the Lord is God;  
it is he that has made us and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.  
Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and bless his name.  
For the Lord is gracious; his steadfast love is everlasting,  
and his faithfulness endures from generation to generation.*



And it's a great time to say 'Alleluia' ('praise the Lord')! A simple, but emphatic phrase. What better way to mark each day of the Easter season.

Let's have a happy Eastertide. Alleluia.

~Liam Pilgrim~

Information shared by Liam Pilgrim: A free 4-part audio retreat on 'Easter people and their stories' (starting with Mary Madelene at the Garden Tomb) is available from St Augustine's College of Theology. Simply click through on website page for material to read/listen to in own time: <https://staugustinescollege.ac.uk/category/audio-retreats/>

**Let us continue to support and strengthen each other**

- ◇ Daily, by saying The Lord’s Prayer together, morning and evening
- ◇ Lighting a candle at home 10.00am on Sunday if we are unable to come to church

**Our Services:**

<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> <b>23<sup>rd</sup> Apr 2023</b>	<b>10:00am   Group Eucharist</b> <b>Bishop David Gillett (Retired Bishop of Bolton;</b> <b>Honorary Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Norwich)</b>	<b>Hempnall Church</b>
	<b>6:00pm   Evening Service</b> <i>Join Zoom Meeting:</i> <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84989034174?pwd=eWxPY0JrYW1Seml6Ym5JOFkldDFzQT09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84989034174?</a> pwd=eWxPY0JrYW1Seml6Ym5JOFkldDFzQT09 <b>Meeting ID:</b> 849 8903 4174   <b>Passcode:</b> 489915	<b>Via Zoom</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> <b>30<sup>th</sup> Apr 2023</b>	<b>10:00am   Morning Praise</b>	<b>Hardwick Church</b>

**This week we pray for:**

- ◇ In the morning: the day and its tasks; the world and its needs; the Church and her life
- ◇ The people of God, that they may proclaim the risen Lord
- ◇ God’s creation, that the peoples of the earth may meet their responsibility to care
- ◇ Those in despair and darkness, that they may find the hope and light of Christ
- ◇ Those in fear of death, that they may find faith through the resurrection
- ◇ Prisoners and captives
- ◇ In the evening: peace; individuals and their needs

**FOOD BANK**

Items for our Food Bank are still needed; we are very grateful to all who continue to contribute during this difficult time.

Our next collections will be on:

**Sunday 7th May 2023 Any items can be left at Hempnall Church Office Mon-Thu, 9am-12:30pm. Please phone before arrival - 01508 498157**

**URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS:**

- PASTA SAUCE
- TINNED VEGETABLES
- TINNED FRUIT

**NON URGENT ITEMS:**

- INSTANT NOODLES (NOT POTS)
- TINNED POTAOES
- MICROWAVE PUDDINGS/CAKES

**WE REMEMBER:**

Martin, Molly, Ian

**Hempnall:** Lesley and family,  
Phillip, Sophie, Ross, Claire, David

**Bedingham/Woodton:**

Sheila, Hilary, Peter, Liz, Anne, Chris, Barrie,  
Carolyn, Bruce, Pat, Anthea, Harry, Sally, Kath,  
Richard, Susan

**Topcroft:** Gerald

**LONG TERM CARE:**

**Bedingham /Woodton:**

Dennis, Shirley, Jacob

**Fritton/Morningthorpe:** Beryl



**RECENTLY DIED:**

Diana Sowerby, Basil Walpole

**Please ring us if you need:**

**The Revd Lynn Chapman—Priest in Charge**  
01508 558479

[chapman.lynn@btinternet.com](mailto:chapman.lynn@btinternet.com)

**Group Office: Mon-Thurs 9am-12.30pm**  
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