

## SUNDAY MASS

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

*I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia. You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia. Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.*

**FIRST READING:** Acts 10:34, 37-43.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Psalm 118.

### RESPONSE:

*This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad.*

1. Give praise to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures forever.  
Let the house of Israel say,  
'His mercy endures forever'. R
2. The Lord's right hand has done mighty deeds; his right hand is exalted.  
The Lord's right hand has done mighty deeds'.  
I shall not die, I shall live  
and recount the deeds of the Lord. R
3. The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.  
By the Lord has this been done,  
a marvel in our eyes. R

**SECOND READING:** Colossians 3:1-4.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

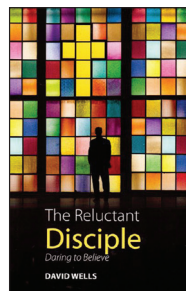
*Alleluia, alleluia. Christ, our Paschal Lamb, has been sacrificed; let us, therefore, celebrate the festival in the Lord. Alleluia.*

**GOSPEL:** John 20:1-9.

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

*Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia; therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.*

In this book of his personal reflections, David Wells helps us to see God in a range of situations that are often funny, sometimes painful, occasionally toe-curlingly embarrassing. Related with characteristically self-deprecating humour, the stories in this volume range from his moving account of visiting war graves in France to the hilarious account of his "Mr Bean in a ballet" moment in California.



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## THE WEEK AHEAD

# Live the Word

### Mon 5 Apr EASTER OCTAVE

Acts 2:14-22-33; Psalm 16; Matthew 28:8-15

The Pharisees and elders changed the story line about Jesus' 'missing' body in order to save face. We all do that from time to time to save embarrassment. But the cost is steep. Integrity cannot be bought.

### Tue 6 Apr EASTER OCTAVE

Acts 2:36-41; Psalm 33; John 20:11-18

Mary Magdalene only recognises Jesus when he calls her by name. Jesus also speaks to each of us by name through the Holy Spirit, calling us to reach out to each other, reminding us that Jesus is always present.

### Wed 7 Apr EASTER OCTAVE

Acts 3:1-10; Psalm 105; Luke 24:13-35

Today's passage from Acts reminds us that silver and gold are not the only way of responding to the needs of the poor. It reminds us to always give whatever we have, no matter how small

### Thu 8 Apr EASTER OCTAVE

Acts 3:11-26; Psalm 8; Luke 24:35-48

We, too, can have our minds opened to understand the Scriptures – through prayer. Quietly pray for God's grace each time before hearing the Word of God, and it will come alive for you in a powerful way.

### Fri 9 Apr EASTER OCTAVE

Acts 4:1-12; Psalm 118; John 21:1-14

We all experience moments when we, too, meet the Lord – in prayer or the Eucharist, in nature or our encounters with others. Carry these moments with you today, reflecting on their beauty and impact.

### Sat 10 Apr EASTER OCTAVE

Acts 4:13-21; Psalm 118; Mark 16:9-15

Do we reveal that we, too, are companions of Jesus by the way we live our lives? Are we people of prayer; do we help the poor; do we make choices consistent with the gospel; are we kind and compassionate?

### Sun 11 Apr 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 118; John 20:19-31

Many people believe in God. This, of course, is a good thing. But religious belief is empty if it does not affect the way we live our lives. How has the gospel changed your life? How has it not changed your life?

(KEY: SOLEMNITY; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial)

# Catholic Link

## EASTER SPIRIT

Resurrection of the Lord • Year B  
Divine Office: Week I • 4 April 2021

# The Sunday of Sundays

Christian pilgrims to the Holy Land get a good sense of the Sabbath when they find so many shops closed on Saturdays. The day feels different, more silent, with many locals off to the synagogues with their Scriptures and their prayer shawls. Then on Sunday the pilgrims find everything open and business and traffic as normal; Sunday is just the first day of the working week.

But for Christians, Sunday is the Day of the Lord and Easter Sunday is the Sunday of Sundays, the biggest and most important day in the Christian year.

Easter Day is of course the commemoration of the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. But it is much more than an historical memory. Easter Sunday is the celebration of the presence of the Risen Lord in his people. So important was Easter Day and every subsequent Sunday that for the early Christians it became the New Sabbath.

Just as what we might call "deep Incarnation" means that all humanity is graced by the Word becoming flesh, so too in "deep Resurrection" all humanity is graced by the New Life of the Crucified Lord. Humanity too is risen and has a destiny hitherto unimaginable.

The Resurrection of Jesus is never just an item of his biography. It is the inauguration of a new kind of existence. All who are "in Christ" become a new creation; hence Easter Sunday is also the Day of the Church. This new creation

is the most tangible aspect of the mystery of mysteries.

This language of Resurrection can sound poetic and attractive; but it would remain but words without the visible, fleshy, implications in how Christians live.

We see the implications of the Resurrection in how the hungry are fed, how the poor are helped, how the strangers are welcomed, how the most vulnerable are cared for; we see it in the respect for others, in the protection of the weak. We see it in forgiveness, we see it in art and beauty. With the eyes of faith, we can see the New Creation all around and within us.



The Resurrection of Christ, a chalk sketch by Michelangelo, 1533, at the British Museum, London (colourized)

Of course, the corporal and spiritual works of mercy are not limited to Sundays, nor are the fruits of the Spirit limited to any specific group, but in the Resurrection of the Crucified, "all is changed, changed utterly".

The mystery of faith grows in a climate of love. It was the beloved disciple who discerned the real meaning of the empty tomb; it was the beloved disciple who recognised the Risen Lord waiting for his friends by the seashore. Love is key to faith as it is to the key to life, as it is the key to the death and resurrection of the beloved Son of the Father.

One day would never suffice for the celebration of the Risen Life of Christ. So the Great Easter runs from today to Pentecost, but in reality, it has no real end. Easter is forever.