

EASTER SUNDAY (a)

Introduction

*leader: Greet the people and name the Sunday of the Year (see above)
Acknowledge visitors and welcome them.
Remind everyone that there will be refreshments ????
Announce the theme of the liturgy (see next)*

Theme – THE JOY OF THE RESURRECTION

*leader: The joy of the resurrection,
proclaimed and celebrated during the Easter Vigil,
overflows into the Mass of Easter day.
The Easter candle is alight in the sanctuary, alleluias are sung.
We continue the celebration of the resurrection.
It is appropriate for the faithful
to renew their baptismal promises at Mass on Easter day.
This renewal replaces the profession of faith
and is accompanied by the sprinkling of the people
with water from the baptismal font.
A song having a baptismal character is sung.
The Easter sequence and Alleluia
are sung before the gospel reading.
We gather to celebrate God's victory, in Christ,
over the power and attraction of death.
The gospel for Easter Day is the foundation story
about how would-be disciples of Jesus
came to a transformed faith and new life.
This is the kind of community of hope,
into which the baptised have been incorporated at Easter.
Now they are themselves committed,
to realise that community through their own practice.
(Announce the opening hymn:)*

Greeting

*presider: Ki te ingoa o te Matua, ✠ o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu:
The grace of Jesus Christ, whose table we share, be with us.*

*all: **And with your spirit***

Penitential Rite *Invitation to Repentance*

*leader: Friends in Christ, we gather around
the light of the Easter candle;*

*a symbol of the One
whose rising from the dead we celebrate today:*

- *Risen Jesus, Son of GOD with power,
according to the Spirit of holiness,
by Your rising from the dead: LORD, have mercy:*
- *Risen Jesus, faithful witness of the Father's love,
firstborn from the dead: CHRIST, have mercy:*
- *Risen Jesus, Prince of Life,
Judge of the living and the dead; LORD, have mercy:*

*May GOD help us to put on the new self -
created in righteousness and holiness of truth.
And may GOD bring us to everlasting life:*

*all: **Amen.***

GLORIA *invitation*

leader: With all the voices of heaven, let us sing praise, honour and glory to GOD.

Opening Prayer

*leader: (Kia inoi tatou: .../ Let us pray, ...) GOD of undying life,
by Your mighty hand
You raised up Jesus from the grave
and appointed him judge of the living and the dead.
Bestow upon those baptised into his death
the power flowing from his resurrection,
that we may proclaim near and far
the pardon and peace You give us.
Grant this through our LORD Jesus Christ,
firstborn from the dead,
who lives with You now and always
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
GOD for ever and ever:*

*all: **Amen.***

Introduction to the first reading: *(Acts 10 : 34, 37 – 43)*

leader: the Gentiles hear the good news

Introduction to the second reading: *(Colossians 3 : 1 – 4)*

leader: the new life in Christ

SEQUENCE *(recited or sung)*

*leader: Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise.
The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;
and Christ, the undefiled, has sinners to his Father reconciled,
Death with life contended; combat strangely ended.
Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.
Tell us, Mary; say what you did see upon the way.
The tomb the Living did enclose;
I saw Christ's glory as he rose!*

*The angels there attesting; shroud with grave-clothes resting.
Christ, my hope, has risen; he goes before you into Galilee.
That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know.
Victorious king, your mercy show.*

Gospel Acclamation:

*all: **Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ has become our Paschal sacrifice;
let us feast with joy in the LORD. Alleluia!***

*leader: Introduction to the gospel reading: (John 20 : 1 – 9)
the resurrection of Jesus*

Homily Notes (presider)

- *The primary visible sign of the resurrection of Jesus in the early church communities was the assembly of those who continued to listen for GOD'S WORD of promise in Jesus and who, "ate and drank with him"(Ac. 10:41) in a Eucharistic communion.*
- *Our hearing the WORD of GOD through the witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus is a moment of subversion and ambiguity for us. Like the disciples after their discussion with the strange rabbi on the road to Emmaus, we hold together our old failed, largely unexamined world, along with a new hopeful world of promise, voiced in the announcement of the "apostle to the apostles" - Mary of Magdala.*
- *The memory of the Easter Triduum, of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection, subverts our human concepts of managed delivery systems for health and well-being. We can even dare to think of a future world where there will be life for everyone - that is the powerful imagery of GOD'S WORD and Action. In the moment of worship we are on the threshold of God's promised new world when GOD's astonishing newness can be given.*
- *Surprisingly it is Mary of Magdala who is the "apostle to the apostles". She speaks a hope beyond the painful data of death; that out of the shatterings of collapse, GOD works newness. The Easter liturgy celebrates GOD's creation of what does not exist and what we cannot conceive through our own efforts: a genuine communion based on the ancient covenant promises.*
- *The essence of that communion, is a proper regard for the dignity of each person; regardless of age, gender, class or religion. Because GOD reigns over death, networks of justice and freedom can function and we can live fully! The Lent of our old world presses us in anguish. The Easter of GOD's new covenant, seems unlikely – and it always is unlikely – until it is given!*

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

leader: Friends in Christ, through the Paschal mystery we have been buried with Christ in baptism, so that we may rise with him to a new life. Now that we have completed our Lenten observance, let us renew the promises we made in baptism when we renounced Satan and all the works of evil, and promised to serve GOD faithfully in the holy Catholic Church. And so:

RENUNCIATION OF SIN

*presider: Do you reject sin, so as to live in the freedom of GOD's people?
Do you reject the glamour of evil, and refuse to be mastered by sin?
Do you reject Satan, father of sin and prince of darkness?
Do you believe in GOD, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and Earth?
Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our LORD, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?
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?*

SPRINKLING WITH BLESSED WATER**Prayer**

*presider: GOD the all-powerful, the Father of our LORD Jesus Christ, has freed us from sin and brought us to new life through water and the Holy Spirit.
May the grace of GOD preserve us for eternal life in Christ Jesus.*

Intercessions – EASTER WEEK [Sun 5th – Sat 11th April 2026]*invitation to pray:*

leader: Friends in Christ, amid the joy of Easter let us more earnestly ask GOD, who heard the prayers and entreaties of Christ, his beloved Son, to hear our prayers:

1: That our pastors may faithfully lead and lovingly serve the flock entrusted to their care by Christ the Good Shepherd: - (pause) - LORD, hear us:

*all: **LORD, hear us.***

2: That the whole world may rejoice in that peace which Christ himself has given: - (pause) – LORD, hear us:

*all: **LORD, hear us.***

3: That our suffering brothers and sisters may have their sorrow turned to joy; a joy which no one can take from them: - (pause) – LORD, hear us:

*all: **LORD, hear us.***

4: That our community may with great confidence bear witness to Christ's resurrection: - (pause) - LORD, hear us:

*all: **LORD, hear us.***

5: Healer of the sick, we pray to You for:

Mangawhai: (see Newsletter) . . .

Maungaturoto: . . .

Wellsford:

Bless them for they share in Christ's passion through their suffering.

May they be blessed with courage & patience: - (pause) - LORD, hear us:

*all: **LORD, hear us.***

6: O LORD, look kindly on Your servants who have died confessing your name, including those who have died recently And those whose anniversaries occur about now: . . . (see Newsletter) . . .

Number them among your saints:

- (pause) - LORD, hear us:

*all: **LORD, hear us.***

Concluding Prayer:

leader: O LORD, You know that Your people's lives are subject to need and hardship. Grant the desires of those who pray to You, and hear the prayers of those who believe in You. We ask this through Jesus Christ our LORD:

*all: **Amen***

Prayer over the Gifts

*leader: (Kia inoi tatou: ...) Filled with Easter joy, O LORD,
we offer You the sacrifice
by which Your Church is wonderfully reborn
and is nourished with the Food of Life.
We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our LORD.*

*all: **Amen***

Preface

presider: The LORD be with you.

*all: **And also with you.***

presider: Lift up your hearts.

*all: **We lift them up to the LORD.***

presider: Let us give thanks to our GOD.

*all: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

*presider: It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
that we should always sing Your glory, LORD;
but we praise You with greater joy than ever
on this Easter day [or: in this Easter season]
when Christ became our Paschal sacrifice.
He is the true Lamb who took away the sins of the world.
By dying he destroyed our death;
by rising he restored our life.
Therefore, the universe resounds with Easter joy,
and the choirs of angels sing the endless hymn of your glory:*

*all: **Holy holy holy!***

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER III**Memorial Acclamation****Introduction to the LORD's Prayer**

*leader: With trust in GOD, who nourishes us in the hour of need,
let us pray as Jesus taught us:*

*all: **Our Father, . . .***

*presider: Deliver us, LORD, we pray, from every evil;
graciously grant peace in our days,
that by the help of Your mercy,
we may be always freed from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

*all: **For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours,
now and for ever. Amen.***

Sign of Peace

*presider: LORD Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles:
'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you'.
Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church
and grant us the peace and unity of your Realm,
where you live, now and always:*

*all: **Amen.***

presider: The peace of the LORD be with you:

*all: **And with your spirit.***

leader: Let us offer each other an appropriate sign of peace:

Lamb of GOD

*all: **Lamb of GOD, You take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us (x2)
Lamb of GOD, You take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.***

*presider: LORD Jesus Christ, Son of the living GOD,
who by the will of the Father
and the work of the Holy Spirit,
through your death gave life to the world;
free us by this your most holy Body and Blood
from all our sins and from every evil:
keep us always faithful to your commandments
and never let us be parted from you.*

*all: **Amen***

*presider: Behold the Lamb of GOD. Behold him who takes away the sins of
the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.*

*all: **LORD, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.***

Holy Communion

*presider: Ko te Tinana o te Karaiti:
(Ko nga Toto o te Karaiti:)*

Prayer after Communion

*leader: (Kia inoi tatou: ... / Let us pray, ...) Eternal GOD, watch over Your Church
with unfailing care, that we who have received new life through
the paschal mystery of Christ may come to the glory of the resurrection.
Grant this through Jesus Christ:*

*all: **Amen.***

(an opportunity for announcements/notices etc. . . .)

Dismissal

*leader: We are sent; in the name of the GOD of Life;
the Creator, who in Christ, overcame the power of death;*

*we are sent in the name of Jesus, the Redeemer,
who has gifted us lasting freedom;
we are sent in the name of the Spirit,
the Sanctifier, who unites us in Christ;
to rise with Christ
in our baptism commitment,
and to inherit his life of faith.
May GOD bless us
so that our lives may be holy
and we will be united with Christ,
until we gather again:*

*all: **Amen***

The Blessing

*presider: Kia whakapaingia koutou e te Atua kaha rawa,
e te Matua, e te Tamaiti ✠ e te Wairua Tapu.*

*all: **Amene***

*leader: The Mass has ended, go in peace to love and serve our GOD.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*all: **Thanks be to GOD. Alleluia! Alleluia!***