

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Dear Parishioners,

We are the people of the Resurrection and Alleluia! is our song.

"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair, persecuted, but not abandoned, struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body."

St. Paul to the Corinthians 2Cor 4:8-10

Death and Resurrection isn't something that just happens as a regrettable necessity at the end of life. It is our constant story. Easter is not just a once a year event. Death and Resurrection is something that we live in so many ways, day in and day out. We proclaim it not only in our faith, but in our relationships, in our love, our concern, in our endurance and perseverance and in our hope and joy. We received the gift of Resurrection as the inevitable resolution of death in our Baptism and we are proud to profess it in all aspects of our life.

I would like to thank all of you who have been joining in prayer and the Sacred Liturgy of the Church on-line and through live streaming as well as in your own more private prayer. As I write this the 'stats' have just arrived for Maundy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper at Sacred Heart Church. We had an astonishing on-line congregation of 1,047. These people were not only united in a very real way to me, but to each other. So many have emailed to say how 'linked in' they feel with all those who are using this new way of coming together as Church. Nothing will ever replace the full reality of being physically together as the Church worshipping corporately, but in these extraordinary times, this comes a pretty close second! Even when facing an empty church I do not feel alone and receive a great consolation from the knowledge that we are all worshipping God together. May God continue to bless us and keep us in his love and care.

In the coming Easter Week, Fr. Gerard and myself we will continue to celebrate Mass each day, alternating, at 10.00.am. It is great to know that so many of you are with us. It is also great to feel this growing connection between all of us in the Pendle district, centred on Nelson and Colne with the cooperation of the two parishes. I believe this will bear fruit for the future. Thank God.

Please continue to pray for and with each other, remembering those who are sick, those who are struggling in whatever way, and especially those who have to put themselves at some risk to serve others, especially in the NHS, but there are so many others who keep us all supplied and able to live with a continued degree of normality. I would also commend to your prayers the soul of James Brennan of Nelson who has died and will be buried during this coming week. May he rest in peace.

God bless you all,
Fr. Peter.