

Christ is risen, Alleluia, Alleluia!
He is risen indeed, Alleluia, Alleluia!

I hope this email finds you, and those you love, well on this Easter Day.

The change in liturgical season presents a particular spiritual challenge this year: In usual times, the move to Easter from the austerity of Lent and the grief of Good Friday presents a welcome shift into joy.

As an Easter People we are called to *rejoice* and to *share the Good News*. At the moment this may feel more easily said than done - we may well be working hard to find reasons to rejoice at all and when we look to the headlines we don't find much in the way of good news.

Attached to this email is this week's devotional pattern, which marks the shift from the melancholy tone of last week's readings to the brighter theme of Christ's Resurrection appearances. The hymns linked to in the document are lively and uplifting, with plenty of Alleluias.

My challenge to you this week is to throw yourselves into these hymns: Singing, listening and meditating on them *with joy*: Which might not sound easy -but give it a go!

(And try to make the *Alleluias* loud enough to cheer your neighbours too!)

From all of us at the Vicarage, a very happy, healthy and safe Easter,

Edward

Please read Edward's sermon and watch his Easter video by clicking on the links on the home page of our website (click here) <http://www.stjohnsbexley.org/>

Easter Day at Rochester Cathedral: There be a service on Easter Sunday, including an Easter message from Bishop James available on the Cathedral and Diocesan social media channels, as well as directly from the [Rochester Cathedral website](#)

Plus an Easter Sunday Service with the Archbishop of Canterbury at <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>

This Week Please Pray For:

...the sick in need of our prayers, Rob Soar, Mavis Johnson, Samantha Pout, Ray Mace, Marie Berry, Maggie Rankine, Ann Harlow, Ray Miller, Joyce Forrest, Dorothy Samuel, John Beddison, David Watkins, Nicola Johns and any others known to you.

...The Prime Minister and all currently suffering with Covid-19.

...the recently departed, Florence Russell, Leslie Nash, Yvonne O'Nions.

....those whose anniversaries fall at this time John Theobald, Don Rodford, Mildred Sweeney, Kellie Wilkinson, Dominic Chappell, Tina Dominy, Anna Thompson.

...residents living in and around our parish.

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.

Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

All documents attached to our emails are also available to download from our website at
<http://www.stjohnsbexley.org/publications.html>