

Weekly Message from Fr William for Easter Sunday 2023

Dear People of St Mary's,

Happy Easter!

As at the Easter Vigil last year you might hear again this ancient hymn during the first part of the vigil that's called the *Lucernarium*, or the 'Service of Light'. It's actually a very old hymn written by the Roman Christian poet Prudentius (died AD 413). Here's a few verses. Email me if you would like the full text.

Gracious Lord, whose gift is the red light of dawn  
and the fixed divisions of the day,  
when the sun sinks low thick darkness overwhelms us:  
bring back light to your faithful servants, O Christ.

You have painted the heav'ns, your royal court  
with countless stars and gleaming moon;  
but we must learn to make the rock hard flint  
yield light when struck.

Lest man not know that light brings hope  
rooted deep in the living body of Christ  
who wished to be called the stable rock  
from which life comes to our fire today.

And so our halls shine bright with noble flames,  
which are your gifts, O Father,  
and the light strives to bring on the still distant day  
when night is overcome and flees with torn robe.

How fitting for your flock to make this offering  
at the beginning of the dew-filled night.  
Light, most precious of all your gift;  
light, by which we see your other gifts.

A big thank you to everybody working behind the scenes especially hard in the run up to the Triduum and Easter:

- Church cleaning team, as always, and throughout the year.
- Brassware cleaning team during Holy Week
- EasyWorship schedulers who come in to load all the content that gets projected
- Flowers
- Ministry coordinators
- Sacristans throughout the year.

And for all those who do so much behind the scenes for our parish.

To you and to all the parish, a very happy and holy Easter to you and to your loved ones.



Easter Sunday, 9 april 2023