

Sunday Message from Fr William for Easter Sunday 2024

Dear People of St Mary's

Happy Easter! Although our Orthodox brothers and sisters will be celebrating the day of the Resurrection on 5th May this year, I think I'm right in saying that we will be celebrating it this Sunday with all the other Christian churches around the world. That's still well over a billion of us. But on a local level it's so good to be celebrating it as a parish community, and I'm immensely grateful to be part of this.

Thank you to all our volunteers who do so much to support the ongoing and day to day life of the parish. I don't think it's usual for parishes to be run entirely on a volunteer basis, but it's what we have here at St Mary's – so much generosity of time and energy. There are currently somewhere north of 50 roles in the parish, and many of these have several volunteers working at them. So that's a lot of volunteers. On behalf of the parish, thank you to each of you.

There's not space here to acknowledge all these roles and thank everybody, but I would like to take the opportunity to pay tribute to those whose service of the parish is very much behind the scenes, roles that many might be even unaware are taken care of.

- Maintaining the anniversary diary
- Sending out anniversary cards
- Counting the cash
- Assembling and dismantling the Christmas Crib
- Our amazing church cleaning team
- Fabric maintenance and DIY
- Managing the Dona machine
- Building the EasyWorship schedules for every Sunday mass
- Fish pond management and maintenance
- Flowers for the church
- Opening and closing St John's car park (and thank you St John's)
- Taking and recording all the meter readings
- Wax recycling
- Washing and ironing our church linen
- Managing the parish's financial accounts
- Website management and weekly updates
- Instagram management
- Printout + distribution of Sunday message + bulletin to parishioners not online
- And all those who coordinate and juggle our various ministry rotas

And to every member of our wonderful parish: Thank you for your faithfulness. Thank you for being part of our parish. Thank you for celebrating mass with us whenever you can, whether online or in church. Thank you for your ongoing support in so many ways. And again, Happy Easter!



31 march 2024