



Society of African Missions

“The Mission”

23 Bliss Avenue
 Tenafly, NJ 07670
 Phone: 201-567-0450
 Visit our website
www.smafathers.org



Mass Schedule

Sundays

10:00 am; 12 noon

Weekdays & Holy Days

9:30 am & 11:45 am

Confessions Saturdays:

After 11:45am Mass.

Or by appointment.

Contact Fr. James McConnell

201-567-0450 Ext. 242

Bereavement & Visit to the Sick

Contact Fr. James McConnell

201-567-0450 Ext. 242

Perpetual Mass Association

Office open Monday-Friday
 from 9:30am to 3:00pm

S.M.A. Vocation Office

Fr Dermot Roache, SMA

Director

201-567-0450 Ext. 253

S.M.A. Museum

Open Monday-Sunday from
 9:00am –5:00pm

Contact Fr. James McConnell

201-567-0450 Ext. 242

Sunday Collection: \$1,459

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support
 your local parishes.

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
 Provincial Superior

Fr James McConnell,
 House Superior

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Masses for the week of MARCH 31, 2024 – APRIL 6, 2024

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. March 31	10:00	Dominick Francisco+ & Mary Ann Ibanez+	
	12:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Mon. April 1	9:30	Holy Souls in Purgatory	Louise Coull
	11:45	Antonio Fernandez+	Daughters
Tue. April 2	9:30	Joanna Jung (Liv.)	John Jung
	11:45	Catherine & John Moccio+	Victoria Costa
Wed. April 3	9:30	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
	11:45	Fe Tolentino+	Erly Cortez
Thurs. April 4	9:30	Lilia R. Tocker+	Friend
	11:45	Alejandro & Maria Ramirez-De-Arellano+	Friend
Fri. April 5	9:30	Spec. Intentions Neill and Forgrave Families	
	11:45	Rose Peltier+ 97 Birthday & Joyce Supper+	Michelle Supper
Sat. April 6	9:30	Sung Whan Choi (Liv.)	Juliana & Joseph Family
	11:45	Spec. Intentions Stoever & Mongiello Families	

THE LORD IS RISEN ALLELUIA!

Today’s Readings: *First Reading Acts 10:34.37-43*

God does not have favourites: the resurrection is for everyone.

Second Reading Colossians 3:1-4

Now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. or

1 Corinthians 5:6-8

Leave your old ways behind and embrace the Gospel.

Gospel John 20:1-9

Jesus has risen from the dead – nothing will ever be the same again.

MEMORIAL DONATION.

The Easter Candle was
 donated in memory of
 Gerard Patrick Lee by
 the Lee Family.

“The stone had been moved away from the tomb.”

Illustration

Most of us will have experienced some kind of disappointment, pain or failure – it is part of life and cannot be avoided. For some this will be the loss of a loved one, or the break-up of a marriage. For others it might be persistent ill health, a job they don't enjoy or financial hardship. Some may perhaps feel that life has been a disappointment, a series of small, exhausting setbacks and broken dreams. We all have our own crosses to bear. For the disciples, the crucifixion and death of Jesus on Good Friday must have signalled the ultimate dashing of all their hopes and dreams. They had seen him as the Messiah, the anointed one, the one who was to save them... and now he was gone.

Gospel Teaching

But everything changed when Christ rose from the dead on that first Easter Day – nothing would ever be the same again. Without the resurrection the Jesus story would have been an interesting footnote in history – a miracle worker, a holy man, remembered with fondness and a little disappointment by his friends. As each of the apostles passed away, the memories would have dimmed and the “Jesus Movement” would probably have withered away, a few stories passed on to grandchildren perhaps and then nothing left but folklore – and then nothing.

The resurrection means that we can say “Jesus is alive!” in the present tense. He has conquered death, not just for himself, but for all peoples and all times. It enables us to say “He lives among us”, not a figure from history, but as a living presence – in the present. The risen Christ transcends time and space – he is available everywhere to everybody.

For the disciples, the resurrection meant that Jesus had fulfilled the promise he had made to them. He truly was the Son of God. He appeared to them in various places in the days that followed, enabling Thomas the “doubting disciple” to proclaim, “My Lord and my God!” More than just an ordinary man, the Word made flesh, the risen Lord, was ready to fill his followers with his Holy Spirit so that the Christian Church could begin and then spread to every corner of the globe.

Application

However, the cross and resurrection of Jesus are not historical events to be pondered from afar -- they reflect our own lived experience, our own falling and rising. Here we find hope, that the personal darkness we often experience will eventually be followed by the morning light. Here is proof that God's grace can lift us out of every situation, no matter how desperate and hopeless it might appear: hence the phrase “We are an Easter people”. Despite all our failings and flaws, we live with the hope of something better, knowing that good will always triumph over evil. St Paul puts it like this: “you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God.” When we die to our own ego and selfishness then we can share in this life of Christ, we become part of him, and he lives in us.

For many Christians the resurrection is significant because it signals that there is life for us too, after our own physical death. But this is to only grasp the half of it. The resurrection is something for us to experience in every moment whilst we still live! We share in the resurrection whenever we share the love and joy of God with each other. Look carefully in the days and weeks ahead and you will see the risen Christ in those you meet. God comes to us disguised as our lives. How could it be otherwise? We love God by taking care of and loving each other and the world in which we live. And God looks through our eyes when we love each other, transforming every human act of love into a divine act of love.

Jesus is raised from the dead whenever we choose to act with kindness and compassion. We bring Jesus to life by our daily attempts to faithfully live out the gospel, by what we do, and how we treat one another. We can mend a broken world: we can become Christ for each other. Our stone has been rolled away, our hopes for the future have been rekindled, our winter has become our spring, Christ's rising is our rising. Happy Easter!

Living the Word

**The SMA Fathers wish you all a most joyful Easter
and a blessed and holy Easter season!**