

The Saint Raphael Link

Some Periodic Ramblings of the Prior

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Dear Members,

Don't we just love it when we have some good news to tell our family and friends? "I've got the promotion," "My wife and I are expecting a baby," "My grades at school are better" – With that kind

of news, we always want to tell someone. Someone who will be glad for us. Someone who, in particular, will recognize the importance of what we are telling them.

When the two angels announced the good news of Jesus' resurrection from the dead; that was the most important news they had ever given. The gospel for Easter day tells us this "And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Mag'dalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him."

Don't you think that it was remarkable that God sent his Holy Angels to make the announcement to women? Women, who in those days were considered unreliable messengers, and who couldn't even testify in court – but these women were given the highest honour of passing-on the best news ever transmitted – that Jesus was alive!

I believe that those women who were entrusted that day with such a truth, was an illustration for all time and all eternity, the very special roll which all women should play in the Church of God.

What a sacred privilege that God chose three women as heralds; not St Peter or any of the other Apostles, but those particular three women, with the news of the establishment of the future Christ's Church here on earth.

Let us not forget that Jesus' family and friends, and indeed all of Jerusalem, thought Jesus' death to be the end. But because of those three women, we still continue some two thousand and twenty-one years later, to celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

Later, Jesus presented himself to Peter who denied him; to Thomas who doubted him; to Mary who wept for him; He visited many of his friends, He supped with his disciples, He talked with his followers. But nothing surpasses the role God gave to Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome that day.

That first Easter Day must have been incredible; one that started with disbelief, with fear and trembling and bewilderment beside the empty tomb, and ended with astonishment, excitement and thanksgiving.

Let me tell you a true story: In Russia a few years ago there was a railway worker who accidentally locked himself in a refrigerated trailer. Unable to escape or to attract attention, he resigned himself to his fate. When he felt his body becoming numb, he took a pencil out of his pocket and recorded the story of his approaching death.

He scribbled these words on the walls:

"I am becoming colder... still colder..."

I am slowly freezing to death... I feel half-asleep – These may be my last words.

Sometime later, when the container was opened the man was found dead, but the temperature of the container was average for the time of year. Officials found that the freezing mechanism was out of order and that there was plenty of fresh air circulation inside the locked compartment.

Although there was no physical, reason that they could find for the man to have died. It was concluded that he had died because he believed that he was freezing to death.

My friends, what we believe to be true, affects us to the core of our being, it shapes us and makes us what we are. It can either bless us because it opens us up to the power of God, or it can afflict us because it blinds us to what we could be, and what God is trying to do for us.

It is not a slight thing to refuse the summons of God through his messengers. The faithfulness of those three women at our Blessed Lord's Tomb on that first Easter Day should be for us a stark reminder. A reminder that for those who refuse

God's summons, are storing trouble up for themselves; they will have to answer for their actions on Judgement Day.

So, let us all follow the example set by Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, and remain faithful in following the Lord. Remember that the reward of the resurrection is awaiting for all who are faithful.

Amen.

+*Geoffrey* – GRAND PRIOR

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Paul Shaw | Sheila Hogarth | Ruth Barr | Lesley Fudge | Thelma Thompson | Charlotte Park | Nicole Vendettuoli | Ivor MacFarlane | Clarice Shaw | Tony Kirby | Sally Hayes | Bishop Gerard & Pam Crane | Brian & Brigitte Duffett | Archbishop Norman & Dorothy Dutton / Eileen Duffy | Marjorie Hooley | Harry Shaw | Ian Weatherall | Lilian King | Luish Sao | Geoff Lamb | Bev & Barrie Chester | Chris McKenna | Barbara Lee | Johnny & Pat Williamson | Lesley & Mick | Mary Ayrton | Shelley Coulter | Una Kirby | Mr Coward | Bro Adrian | Thelma Dunkley | Irene Solley | Linda Webster | Jackson Amick | George Fitzwilliam | Sylvia Holgate | Monsignor Antonio Silliman (Brazil) | Ian Lester | Evie Campbell | Cath Bromilow / James Hardman / Brian Keane OSR | Mary Dalton OSR | Bishop Gerald Hitchen | Matthew Shaw | Alex Wiseman | Joan Borobarrow | Keith Wolf | Sharon Brisland | Francis Delaney | Lyn Collier | Steven Collier | Ingrid | Helen Wilson OSR (Covid-19) | Karen Kirby | Rosie Jean Jones | Liam Younger | Patricia Wilson.

GUESS THE LOCATIONS

1. *Rivaulx Abbey in North Yorkshire* | 2. *Clifford's Tower in York*

COOK'S CORNER:

Herby spring chicken pot pie



INGREDIENTS:

2 tbsp olive oil , plus a little extra for brushing over the pastry | bunch spring onions , sliced into 3cm pieces | 250g frozen spinach | 6 ready-cooked chicken thighs (or see tip, below) | 350ml hot chicken stock | ½ tbsp wholegrain mustard | 200g frozen peas | 200ml half-fat crème fraîche | ½ small bunch tarragon , leaves finely chopped small bunch parsley , finely chopped | 270g pack filo pastry

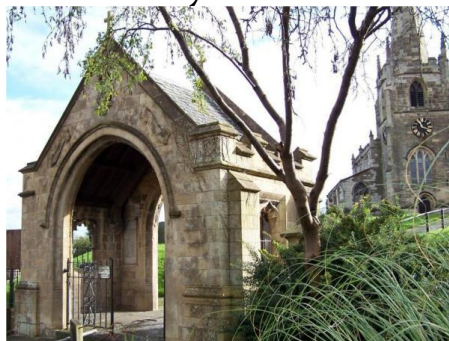
METHOD

STEP 1 | Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Heat the oil in a large, shallow casserole dish on a medium heat. Add the spring onions and fry for 3 mins, then stir through the frozen spinach and cook for 2 mins or until it's starting to wilt. Remove the skin from the chicken and discard. Shred the chicken off the bone and into the pan, and discard the bones. Stir through the stock and mustard. Bring to a simmer and cook, uncovered, for 5-10 mins.

STEP 2 | Stir in the peas, crème fraîche and herbs, then remove from the heat. Scrunch the filo pastry sheets over the mixture, brush with a little oil and bake for 15-20 mins or until golden brown.

FACTS ABOUT THE CHURCH

A Lych Gate



Lych is derived from the Old English 'lich', meaning corpse. They were meeting places and shelters for the party bringing a corpse for burial, and for the priest to receive the corpse.

Although some had been built earlier, the 1549 Prayer Book required the priest to meet the corpse at the churchyard entrance. This encouraged the provision of lych-gates to shelter the corpse and the funeral party for that purpose.

Medieval lych-gates were made of timber and most have long since disappeared.

However, many new lych-gates were erected in Victorian times, sometimes as memorials to prominent local people or as war memorials.

A REMINDER FROM THE GRAND MASTER

Julian has asked that we notify the various Officers of the Order when any of our Members are ill. Given below are the contact details:-

Dame Helen Wilson (Almoner) –
rosewilson65@gmail.com

Chevalier David Heywood (Chancellor) -
training@microtutor.co.uk

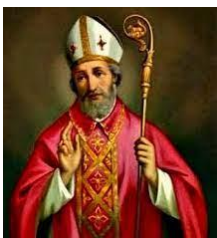
Bishop Geoffrey (Prior) –
revgeoffreyrobinson@gmail.com

AN EASTER PRAYER

Loving Lord, today we remember the veil of darkness transforming to the brightest light. The most dreadful end becoming the most beautiful beginning. We remember with trembling hearts the depths of despair fading to reveal hope everlasting. The curse of death defeated by eternal life. Today we remember with thankfulness your willingness to be pierced for our sins. We sing with abounding joy of your miraculous rise, from death's tomb to resplendent life. Thank you for the promise of heaven and your generous invitation of eternal life for all. Amen.

A SAINTS DAY IN APRIL

SAINT ANSELM OF CANTERBURY,



(born 1033/34, Aosta, Lombardy—died April 21, 1109, possibly at Canterbury, Kent, England, feast day April 21), Italian-born theologian and philosopher, known as the

father of Scholasticism, a philosophical school of thought that dominated the Middle Ages.

Died: April 21, 1109, Canterbury

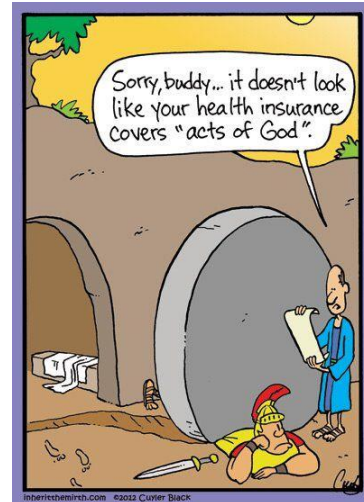
GUESS THE OCATIONS



1.



2.



"For I remember it is Easter Morn and life and love and peace are all new born."

"There would be no Christmas if there was no Easter."

"Blessed are those who have not seen and have yet believed."



The Healing Teaching &
Chivalric Order of
St Raphael

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