

## EASTERTIDE NEWSLETTER SUPPLEMENT

27<sup>th</sup> April – 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2025

*He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. (Matthew 28:6a)*

In my Easter newsletter, I had written **‘we have this gift of Jesus in his pastoral love beyond the grave’.**



This is indeed what Pope Francis following his Lord's pastoral example also did in his parting message to all the world:

*"Sisters and brothers, especially those of you experiencing pain and sorrow, your silent cry has been heard and your tears have been counted; not one of them has been lost!... The resurrection of Jesus is indeed the basis of our hope. For in the light of this event, hope is no longer an illusion.... That hope is not an evasion, but a challenge; it does not delude, but empowers us."*

Pope Francis (1936–2025), "Urbi Et Orbi," Easter, 2025

Many have known the blessing of being with Pope Francis including His Majesty King Charles III. He speaks for us in his message of condolence and memory of Pope Francis.

As The King has instructed the flag above Buckingham Palace to fly half-mast and so also our Provincial Archbishop of York has lowered to half-mast the flag above Bishopthorpe Palace, we shall follow suit after today St George's Day and that flag above Gainford St Mary's church tower will be lowered. Churches Together in Gainford has been blessed by close and caring relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ in our Roman Catholic community. To them we extend our prayers for comfort especially at this time.

*Lift up your heart. Lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

*Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop*

My wife and I were most deeply saddened to learn of the death of Pope Francis. Our heavy hearts have been somewhat eased, however, to know that His Holiness was able to share an Easter Greeting with the Church and the world he served with such devotion throughout his life and ministry.

His Holiness will be remembered for his compassion, his concern for the unity of the Church and for his tireless commitment to the common causes of all people of faith, and to those of goodwill who work for the benefit of others. His belief that care for Creation is an existential expression of faith in God resounded with so many across the world. Through his work and care for both people and planet, he profoundly touched the lives of so many.

The Queen and I remember with particular affection our meetings with His Holiness over the years and we were greatly moved to have been able to visit him earlier in the month. We send our most heartfelt condolences and profound sympathy to the Church he served with such resolve and to the countless people around the world who, inspired by his life, will be mourning the devastating loss of this faithful follower of Jesus Christ.

Charles R

Brian and I are away for a few days for a belated celebration of special occasions deferred during Holy Week. This supplement accompanies newsletters that Geoff and Lynne will send out for Gainford and Winston, for Easter 3 Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup>. Staindrop St Mary's Lay Leaders will make announcements on Easter 2's service about events during and after the week of Easter 3.