

Stay Connected – 5th April 2026

Easter Sunday

This Week's Reading

Bible Reading: Matthew 28: 1-10

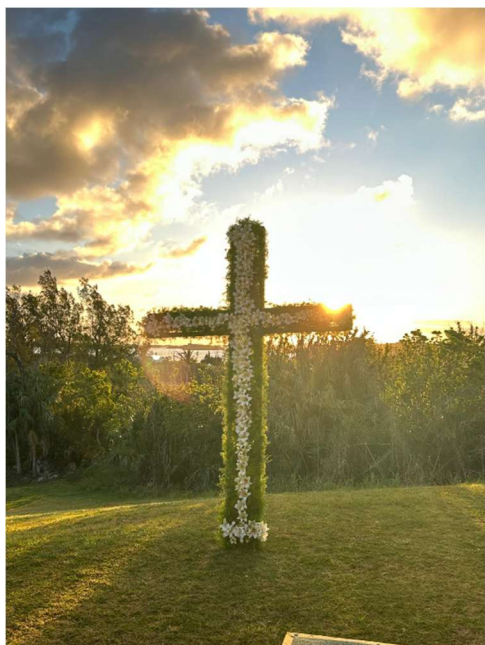
Peter's Blurb

"Come to St. Mark's – not just a church but a family!"



Happy Easter everyone. And what a beautiful Easter it has been. The weather has been perfect. I don't know how it was for kite-flying – one of several things that I am not up for any more – but I'm sure there would have been enough wind off the beaches to make it a worthwhile effort. There were plenty of hot-cross buns on offer in various places too – and that's good.

A solemn, probably sombre, Maundy Thursday joint service, complete with stripping of the altar was held at Holy Trinity and then it was back to Holy Trinity on Good Friday morning for a joint service of readings, hymns and prayer. Again, a solemn service but a very satisfying one with several members of St. Mark's choir turning out to supplement theirs. It was a beautiful service – would that more would have participated in it.



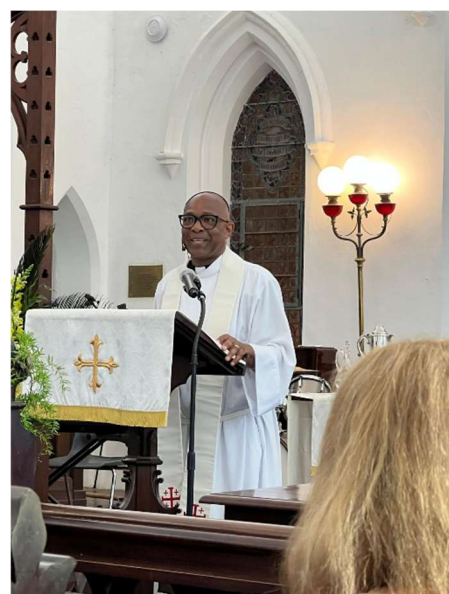
Easter Day itself dawned clear and sunny and many of us took off to Rosewood Tucker's Point for a Sunrise Service which, as usual, was well attended. A poignant presentation of readings and prayers recounting the story of the Crucifixion from today's reading from Matthew and a moving homily from Canon Anne. The service was interspersed with hymns from the small choir on hand. Rosewood laid on the customary lashings of coffee, tea and hot cross buns following the service. It is a beautiful setting and it was such a lovely morning. Join us next year.

A bit of a hectic morning then as we were all due back at St. Mark's for the big Easter Sunday communion service. And big it was too. We had over 90 communicants this morning. I know everyone comes at Easter – and they did! There were also over 20 youngsters on hand to enjoy Youth Church in the form of an

Easter Bingo in which the prizes were Easter Eggs. There was an obscene quantity of prizes on display – all sugar and chocolate! I hope they weren't all used or there would have been a lot of hyperactive youngsters running around the rest of the day driving parents nuts 🤪.

We expected a large crowd so we had scheduled three hymns for during communion instead of the usual two. Even then we ran out and had to repeat two of them. So, we had a five-hymn communion today. Awesome!

It was also a lovely surprise to have Gavin & Helen in the congregation



and we gave them a rousing welcome. They are visiting for a few weeks house-sitting and dog-minding. Or should that be house-minding and dog-sitting 🙄 Hopefully we will see more of them during their visit – I know we will!

One of the highlights of the service was a visit from Shepherd Steve who had visited us “all the way from the pastures of Southampton” at Christmas-time when he explained the story of the Birth of the baby Jesus to the children. Now he was back to tell the children about the Easter story before they took off for their Bingo session. From a script he wrote himself he did a great job of telling the tale in child-friendly words. That coupled with an excellent, compelling sermon from Fr. Terry (see below), made for a superb service appreciated by everyone. Add to all that the bell-playing of Al Spearing before the service and the hot cross buns and fishcakes laid on post-service by our Guild members and today was an Easter Sunday extraordinaire!

Guild News

The Guild did a fabulous job on Wednesday with the presentation of the annual Agape Supper which was attended by over 60 people. We all enjoyed the spiritual meal which culminates in a supper of Roast Lamb, potatoes and beans – the lamb symbolizing the sacrifice of a lamb during Passover. It was greatly appreciated by all attending.

Annual General Meeting

It is coming up to the time of year when the parishes of the Diocese are required to hold their Annual General Meetings. For those unfamiliar, reports are submitted from the various activities (“departments”) in the church including Financial Reports. These are presented for discussion and a new Vestry is elected by the members to manage the affairs of the church for the next year. The Vestry, under the chairmanship of Rev. Terry, consists of two Churchwardens who serve a four-year term plus a number of regular members who serve a term of three years. Rotation is staggered so that continuity is maintained. There are likely some vacancies opening up this year and anyone who is interested in helping the church in this capacity should speak to Dudley Cottingham, choir member, who has been designated, by the Vestry as Chairman of the Nominating Committee and he will be happy to explain what vacancies exist and you may consider “putting your name in the hat” for possible selection.

The Annual General Meeting will be held following our 9.30 service on Sunday, 17th May.

Fr. Terry's Talk

March 29, 2026

Palm Sunday

St. Mark's Anglican Church

Matthew 28:1-10

“Do not be afraid,” the angel says. “Go and tell.”

It is still dark when the women arrive. The Sabbath has passed, but their grief hasn't. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary aren't coming with hope—they're coming with spices, with memories, with love that has nowhere left to go. They're doing what faithful people do when everything has fallen apart: They just show up. And it's in that space where everything changes. The earth shakes. The stone rolls away. An angel speaks. And the tomb... is empty. But don't miss this part—don't rush past it: The first witnesses to the resurrection are women. Not priests. Not rulers. Not even the disciples who walked closest with Jesus. But women. Now why does that matter? It matters, because in that time, women's voices were often dismissed. Overlooked. Ignored. And yet—this is exactly who God chooses.

In God's upside-down kingdom, they are entrusted with the greatest news the world has ever known. “Do not be afraid,” the angel says. “Go and tell.” Now don't misunderstand me...Yes, we celebrate the cross. Yes, we rejoice in Christ's victory over death. Yes, we shout Alleluia because Jesus rose on the third day. And yes, we live in the hope of new life and eternal life. These are the foundations of our faith.

But this morning, I want us to also see something deeper—something about the heart of God. I want us to see the kind of God we serve. A God who loves. A God who forgives. A God who chose the cross so that we could have life—not just someday, but right now.

Here. In this moment. Together.

So, I want to leave you with four things:

First—God chooses the overlooked. This isn't random. It's intentional. All throughout Scripture, God chooses the unlikely. The overlooked. The underestimated. The ones pushed to the margins of life. And here, at the turning point of history, God places the message of resurrection not in the hands of the powerful... but in the voices of the faithful. These women who stayed when others ran. Who stood near the cross when it was dangerous. Who didn't turn away. And now—they are the first to see the empty tomb. Here's the takeaway: God honours faithfulness—not status.

Second—fear and joy can exist at the same time. Matthew says they left the tomb “with fear and great joy.” And honestly—that feels real. Because resurrection isn't clean or simple. It doesn't make fear disappear instantly. It breaks into it—and stays right there alongside it. They were afraid—because everything they thought they understood had been shaken. Death was supposed to be final. Crucifixion was supposed to silence. And yet—joy rises. Because somehow, impossibly... Jesus is alive. Maybe that's where some of us are today. Holding fear... and joy. Carrying questions... and hope. Feeling uncertain... and yet sensing that God is doing something new. So, hear this clearly: Easter does not require you to get rid of your fear before you believe. It reminds you that Christ meets you right in the middle of it.

Third—the risen Christ meets us on the way. The women don't just hear about the resurrection. The text says as they were going, they Suddenly, meet Jesus. Other translations say “immediately,” “at once,” “unexpectedly,” “in an instant,” or “without warning.” Almost like he jumped from behind a bush. “Greetings,” he says. Simple. Ordinary. And yet—it changes everything. And they fall at his feet and worship. But notice this—they meet him on the way. They didn't have it all figured out. They didn't fully understand. They were still shaken. But they were moving. They were obeying. “Go and tell”—and they went. And as they went... Jesus met them. And that's often how it works for us too. We don't wait until everything makes sense. We walk. We pray. We obey as we can. And somewhere along the way...Christ makes himself known.

And finally—the call to witness still stands. “Go and tell my brothers,” Jesus says. The first message of the resurrection is placed in their hands. They become the first preachers of the Gospel. And that matters, because it reminds us that sharing the good news isn't about status. It's about having an encounter with Jesus. If you have experienced God's grace...If you have known his mercy...If you have seen his love at work in your life...Then you already have something to share. Not because you have all the answers. But because you've seen what God can do.

So, what does this mean for us? It means we ask ourselves: Who have we been overlooking? Because Easter shows us that God often speaks through the very people the world ignores. And it means we ask: Where is God calling me to go and tell? Not just in big ways—but in everyday ways. Through kindness. Through courage. Through truth. Through love. And maybe most importantly—remember this: The resurrection was first entrusted to people who were grieving... uncertain... and overlooked. Which means this good news isn't just for the strong, or the confident, or the important. It's for all of us.

So, hear it again: They came to a tomb. They left as witnesses. They came carrying spices. They left carrying a message that would change the world. “Do not be afraid,” Jesus says. “Go and tell.” And so... we go. And so... we tell. In the name of the risen Christ—who meets us in our fear, walks with us in our everyday lives, and sends us out as bearers of hope. Amen.

In our prayers

We ask for your prayers for Margaret Blanchette, Gill Rossiter, Sam & Marjorie, Gwyneth & Ralph, Jill, Barbara (Dyer), Vinette, Nancy, Gail, Janet & Gary, Tina, Val & Mark, Tim, Audrey, Robert & Kalreeta, David, Rachel and

for Valerie (June) Johnstone and Hilda Warner. Also, for all and any others known to us.



Previous services and other videos are on our YouTube channel and/or our Facebook page at:

<https://www.youtube.com/StMarksChurchBermuda> and/or <https://www.facebook.com/stmarksbermuda/>

Next Sunday

Sunday, **12th April** – Second Sunday of Easter. We will hold our **Peaceful Worship** at **8 am.** followed by our usual Contemporary Worship at 9.30 am both led by Fr. Terry. There will be Junior Church

as usual. Refreshments and Fellowship follow the service.

Coming Events

- **Life Group Startup** – The popular Life Groups have resumed but it **may not be too late** to get involved. Reach out to Steve or Cathy West if you would like to know more: cswestmd@logic.bm or cathjwest@gmail.com.
- **Vendor's Market** – The next Vendor's Market will be on **Saturday, 25th April.**
- **Bereavement Support Tea** – our next monthly chat will take place at **3.00 p.m. on Sunday, 3rd May** in the Parish Hall.
- **Annual General Meeting** – St. Mark's Annual General Meeting will take place following our 9.30 service on **Sunday, 17th May.** (See discussion above.)

Those of you who generously donate to the church by way of Standing Order may wish to double-check that your orders have not passed their end-by date and expired. Of course, if they have, we would love you to re-instate them. 🙏

Down the Debt – St. Mark's needs your help in reducing the size of our debt which inhibits future investment in our church. If you feel you may be able to help with this please go to <https://stmarks.bm/donate/> where you will find details and an opportunity to donate.

Links:

Just a reminder – if you want to check vot's happnin' or vot's comin' dahn de road – you can find it all at our:

- **Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/stmarksbermuda/>
- **YouTube Channel:** <https://www.youtube.com/StMarksChurchBermuda>
- **Website:** <https://anglican.bm/churches/st-marks/>
- **Holy Trinity Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/holytrinitychurchbda>

End Stuff:

Here's a thought. It is always a great time for us all to review our pledging. If each of us is able to increase our pledge by 10% that would be a great boost to our cash flow (which as you know is tenuous at best). And, with our in-person collections still inhibited by numbers restrictions, please consider the opportunity to convert to pledging by Direct Deposit (see below). Your support is vital.

As always, another huge thank you to all of you who continue to support our church family with your pledges and donations via online transfer.

Direct deposits can be made to: Butterfield Bank for the account of:

St. Mark's Church Wardens – A/c No. 20-006-060-104125-100.

- **For Grave Payments** – when paying Grave Maintenance fees be sure to enter Grave Number and Name of Lessee e.g. "Grave 273 Peter Nash" in the **Beneficiary** space on the on-line transfer form.
- **For Cash donations** – if you do not have an Envelope # just be sure to also enter your Name and "Donation"

e.g. “Nash Donation” in the **Beneficiary** space on the on-line transfer form.

Use of the “Beneficiary” space is IMPORTANT – it is the only way we have to identify who is paying and for what.

Posters follow:

Come to St. Mark's – not just a Church but a family!