



Easter Vigil of the Resurrection Saturday 15th April 2017

Keynote: Triumph and victory

Service of Light

Blessing of the Fire, the Easter Proclamation (Exsultet) Rejoice, heavenly powers!

Book of Genesis 1:1-2:2 (optional Genesis 1: 1, 26-31)

'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth... God said, "Let there be light", and there was light... Evening came and morning came: the first day.' The majestic progress of creation: *'Let there be a vault in the heavens... Let the earth produce vegetation... Let there be lights... and let them indicate festivals ...and so God created great sea serpents and every kind of living thing ...evening came and morning came...'* as each day marked the passage of time. Then *'God created man in the image of himself... make and female he created them... and God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good.'*

Responsorial Psalm 103 (104) (optional Psalm 32)

Book of Genesis 22:1-18 (optional Genesis 22: 1-2. 9-13. 15-18)

'God put Abraham to the test... "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering." What a terrible command. In obedience, Abraham rides out with his only son to the designated mountain. The familiar story of young boy and father climbing the mountain and their touching dialogue ends with a different sacrifice and the child lives. An angelic messenger comes to Abraham and says: *'All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves, by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'*

Responsorial Psalm 15 (16) Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you

Book of Exodus 14:15-15:1

'Tell the sons of Israel to march on ...raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea... for the sons of Israel to walk through the sea on dry ground ...and as day broke the sea returned to its bed... the returning waters overwhelmed the chariots and the horsemen of Pharaoh's whole army... it was then that Moses and the sons of Israel sang this song in honour of the lord.'

Responsorial Psalm Exodus 15: 1-6,17-18 I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph!

Prophet Isaiah 54:5-14

The prophet speaks God's word: *'For now your creator will be your husband ...he is called the God of the whole earth. Yes, like a forsaken wife, distressed in spirit, the Lord calls you back ...with everlasting love I have taken pity on you, says the Lord, your redeemer.'*

Responsorial Psalm 29 (30) I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me.

Prophet Isaiah 55:1-11

'Thus says the Lord: "Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! ...Pay attention, come to me, listen, and your soul will live."' God is faithful to the covenant with the people, more certain than the rain and snow that fall from the heavens to water the earth. So God says: *'So the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'*

Responsorial Psalm Isaiah 12: 2-6 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Prophet Baruch 3:9-15, 32, 4:4

'Listen, Israel, to commands that bring life; hear, and learn what knowledge means.' With these words the prophet urges us to walk faithfully with our God, to go in search of true wisdom: *'Learn where knowledge is, where strength, where understanding, and so learn where length of days is, where life, where the light of eyes, and where peace.'* This wisdom of God is to be found in the book of the commandments of God.

Responsorial Psalm 18 (19) You have the message of eternal life, O Lord.

Prophet Ezekiel 36:16-28

'The members of the House of Israel used to live in their own land ...I sentenced them as their conduct and actions deserved ...I mean to display the holiness of my great name and then I shall ...bring you home to your own land. I shall pour clean water over you ...I shall give you a new heart, and put a new spirit in you ...you shall be my people and I will be your God.'

Responsorial Psalm 41(42) Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God. [When there are baptisms, either: Isaiah 12 or: 50: 12-15. 18. 19 r. 12 A pure heart create for me, O God.]

Mass of Easter Night

Letter to the Romans 6:3-11

'You have been taught,' says Paul *'that when we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptise in his death so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the father's glory, we too might live a new life'*. This is the heart of our Christian faith: *'We believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him ...death has no more power over him any more.'*

Responsorial Psalm 117 (118) A processional song of praise and proclamation of Alleluia!

Gospel according to Matthew 28: 1-10

'After the Sabbath, and towards dawn on the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary went to visit the sepulchre. And all at once there was a violent earthquake, for the angel of the Lord, descending from heaven came and rolled away the stone and sat on it.' In these dramatic terms Matthew sets out his account of the earth shattering events of the resurrection of Jesus. *'The guards were so shaken, so frightened of him (the angel), they were like dead men. But the angel spoke; and said to the women, "There is no need for you to be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said he would. Come and see the place where he lay, then go quickly and tell his disciples, He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him."'* *'Filled with awe and great joy the women came quickly away from the tomb and ran to tell his disciples. And there, coming to meet them was Jesus. "Greetings" he said. And the women came up to him and falling down before him, clasped his feet. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell by brothers that they must leave for Galilee; they will see me there."'*