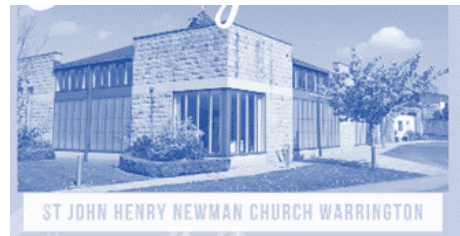


Saint John Henry Newman

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“Christmas is important, but Easter is decisive”

Former Arsenal manager, Arsene Wenger was speaking about the premier league fixtures when he spoke these words. But to the Christian who knows what Easter is about, they could not be truer. Therefore, we can return to singing with real vigour our **Alleluias!**

Just as night turns to day, so surely does the resurrection of Christ announce that the reign of death has its limits. It has been conquered by love. Those who have walked the path ahead of us truly rest in peace, as we all await the resurrection of the dead.

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise.

Leaving behind nights of terror and fear, I rise
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear, I rise
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.

I rise, I rise, I rise. (From *Still I Rise* by Maya Angelou)



The image on our Easter Candle, prepared for us this year by Tricia Peters, is the official logo of the Jubilee Year and is full of symbolism.

The Jubilee Logo

The logo shows four stylized figures, representing all of humanity, coming from the four corners of the earth. They embrace each other to indicate the solidarity and fraternity which should unite all peoples. The figure at the front is holding onto the cross. It is not only the sign of the faith which this lead figure embraces, but also of hope, which can never be abandoned, because we are always in need of hope, especially in our moments of greatest need. There are the rough waves under the figures, symbolising the fact that life's pilgrimage does not always go smoothly in calm waters. Often the circumstances of daily life and events in the wider world require a greater call to hope. That's why we should pay special attention to the lower part of the cross which has been elongated and turned into the shape of an anchor which is let down into the waves. The anchor is well known as a symbol of hope. In maritime jargon the 'anchor of hope' refers to the reserve anchor used by vessels involved in emergency manoeuvres to stabilise the ship during storms. It is worth noting that the image illustrates the pilgrim's journey not as an individual undertaking, but rather as something communal, marked by an increasing dynamism leading one ever closer to the cross. The cross in the logo is by no means static, but it is also dynamic. It bends down towards humanity, not leaving human beings alone, but stretching out to them to offer the certainty of its presence and the security of hope. At the bottom of the logo is the motto of the 2025 Jubilee Year: *Peregrinantes in Spem* (Pilgrims in hope), represented in green letters.

Our Beautiful Church

A big thank you to those who have cleaned, decorated and adorned the church in so many ways throughout Lent and now for Easter. As always is the case they have excelled in enhancing our celebrations. It is a blessing that we have such dedicated and talented volunteers and all they do can be viewed as acts of worship of God and thoughtfulness towards us all.

Safeguarding

The safety and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults is of the highest importance. It requires constant vigilance and the cooperation of those engaged in activities involving them with the DBS checking systems.

I am very pleased and grateful to report that I recently received confirmation that our new Safeguarding Rep, Michelle Walker, has been approved by the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer. She has been given up to date training on current policies and procedures. Michelle will be reviewing our existing records and inviting those requiring new DBS checks to make their applications as smooth as possible.

Michelle's appointment enables our existing Rep Maureen Creaghan to step down after holding this role since it was first established. Many of you will know what Maureen has done both in the parish and in the community at large as a councillor, Mayor and school governor. She has been a tireless advocate for the wellbeing of others, particularly the most vulnerable and neglected and we owe her a huge thank you.

Divine Mercy Sunday: Pope John Paul II declared the Second Sunday of Easter to be a day to mark this devotion. As in previous years you are invited to take part in a Holy Hour at 3pm.



When I was a child some of the Easter eggs had chocolate buttons inside. So to get an empty Easter egg might be disappointing. But an empty tomb is amazing. That's what the women found when they went to visit where

Jesus had been buried. An angel who told them that Jesus had risen from the dead and was alive! They were so excited they ran to tell the disciples, and we have been sharing this great news ever since.

Easter is the time to get that excited about Jesus, a lot more exciting than springtime or chicken eggs. We have hope that outlasts the weather, and new life that lasts forever. For us, this feast is even better than Christmas. Not only was Jesus born, but He lived and died and came back to life! And we sing Alleluia! Because God has invited us to join him in love for ever!

PARISH LITURGICAL AND EVENTS CALENDAR

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Sat 19 April	7.00 pm	Samantha Howard Intentions
Sunday 20 April	9.00 am 11.00 am	Rita & Geoff Boyer RIP Susan Entwistle RIP
Monday 20 April	9.40 am 10.00.am	Morning Prayer Intentions of Sheila McCaulay
Tuesday 21 April		No Service today
Wed 22 April		No Service today
Thursday 23 April	6.30 pm 7.00 pm	Quiet Adoration Gerard Moulding RIP (Birthday Remembrance)
Friday 24 April	9.40 am 10.00 am	Morning Prayer Intentions of Parishioners

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Divine Mercy Sunday

Sat 19 April	5.30 pm	Personal Intention
Sunday 20 April	9.00 am 11.00 am 3.00 pm	Parish Intentions Intentions of Eileen Allen Divine Mercy Holy Hour



Kindly Remember in your Prayers: All those requesting our prayers, including Pope Francis, Barry Bennett, Derek Boyd, Miriam Boyle, Harry Challoner, Marie Clowes, David Cripps, Mary Dunning, Margaret Daintith, Patricia Ditchfield, Harold Entwistle, Mary Finn, Tony Graham, Maria Hibbert Graham Higham, Rita Huson, Josie Johnson, Emma Leigh, Rita Mahon, Kathleen Mannion, Roger Maxwell, Marcos Sala, Patrick Stokes, Vaughan Stone, Linda Thorley, John Wenmoth, and Gordon Whittaker.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL *R*: Risen Saviour. Renew our lives!

YOUR DONATIONS THIS WEEKEND CONTRIBUTE TO THE SALARY OF FR PETER. SO, THANK YOU FOR THE GENEROSITY YOU SHOW NOT MERELY IN TERMS OF MONEY, BUT MORE SO IN GENUINE FRIENDSHIP, ACTIVE SUPPORT AND MESSAGES OF APPRECIATION.