

A photograph of a garden scene featuring a mix of white daffodils and purple hyacinths. The daffodils are in the upper half of the frame, with some in full bloom and others as buds. The purple hyacinths are in the foreground, creating a dense, textured look. A tree trunk is visible on the right side of the image. The background is slightly blurred, showing more greenery.

Easter

2025

Muckairn Parish Church

From the Editor...

Welcome to Muckairn's Easter Magazine.

Once again my thanks go to everyone who has sent in articles.

I have really enjoyed reading them, especially some of the beautiful poems and Easter quotations. One of my favourite quotations is from an unknown author:

"It's not about the bunny, it's about the lamb."

Such a simple Easter message to focus our minds on something so wonderful - the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition; I personally think it goes really well with a pot of tea and a marzipan disciple from the Easter cake!



Happy Easter to you, your friends and your family and I'll see you at the rising of the Sun on Easter Sunday.

And to close, here is another favourite quotation, this time from Mark Twain:

"Give every day the chance to become the most beautiful day of your life!"

Katherine Blyth

Little Lamb by William Blake

(published in Songs of Innocence 1789)

Little Lamb who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life and bid thee feed
By the stream and o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing woolly bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice:
Little Lamb who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?

Little Lamb I'll tell thee,
Little Lamb I'll tell thee:
He is called by thy name,
For he calls himself a Lamb:
He is meek and he is mild,
He became a little child:
I a child and thou a lamb,
We are called by his name:
Little Lamb God bless thee.
Little Lamb God bless thee.



Safe in the Arms of Jesus.

Jesus Christ is Risen, Hallelujah!



In the Church of Scotland and many other Christian denominations there are a number of days which are 'Special'. Christmas Day, Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, Pentecost, to name a few. Which is your favourite?

Anyone who knows me, might suggest Christmas is my favourite. I admit, I do go over the top with Christmas decorations and particularly Nativity Sets. One of my daughters has even suggested there should be a rule – one in, one out!! That's not going to happen!

They would be wrong though. I do love Christmas. I love that a young woman was brave enough to say yes to God, an answer that could have ruined her life. However, my favourite, and what I believe to be the most important day in the Christian Calendar is Easter Sunday. That Christ was willing to die on the cross for all humanity is AWESOME, in the real meaning of that word, but his resurrection is what offers hope for the future.

There's a lovely story in Walk to Jerusalem, by Gerard Hughes. He recalls celebrating Easter morning mass in Turnbull Hall, the Catholic chaplaincy in Glasgow University. He had asked two children, a seven year old boy and his three year old sister, to bring up the offertory gifts.

This was to be their moment of glory, so when the time came to bring up the gifts, they made the most of it, processing up the aisle like royalty on a walkabout, beaming with delight at everyone as they passed. When the three year old handed me the gifts, she could no longer contain her joy and whispered to me, 'I've got a new pair of shoes on.'

He goes on to say, 'That child thought her new shoes were the cause of her joy, but I pray for her that one day, having passed from shoes to dresses, to hats and rings, through pain and loss and disappointment, she will delight and know why, for she will discover the real source of her joy was not in her new shoes, dresses, hats or rings, not in her health, wealth or social status, but comes from within her and beyond her, from the Risen Christ, source of her life and goal of it, her meaning and identity.'

My prayer for you is that you too, will find in the Risen Christ, all the love, hope and strength to live life and to live it in all its fullness.

Did you know?

A favourite snack for many today, the pretzel, is actually a symbol of prayer and of the Holy Trinity, God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

It is believed that pretzels originated in Europe as early as the 6th or 7th century in a monastery. The story goes that a monk created a simple bread using just water, flour, and salt, ingredients. He shaped the dough into the distinctive twisted form to resemble arms crossed in prayer, a common posture in early Christian devotion.

The three holes in the pretzel were also seen as a reminder of the Holy Trinity.

Some believe they were originally introduced as treats to encourage children in their prayers and were called "pretiola" or "little rewards".

Over the years, pretzels became a common Lenten food, especially in monasteries and Christian homes as the ingredients fit the fasting rules of the time, which forbade dairy, eggs, and meat. They were a visual and edible reminder of the season of prayer and fasting.

Aileen Binner

I found this among some of my grandmother's papers. I have no idea who wrote it or where it came from, but I think it's worth sharing... Editor

A church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. He wrote, 'I've gone for 30 years and in that time I have heard something like 30,000 sermons. But for the life of me I can't remember a single one of them. So I think I'm wasting my time and the ministers are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all.'

The editor published the letter and it was read by many people. It started a real controversy in the 'Letters to the Editor' column. Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this:

'I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: they all nourished me and gave me the strength I need to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to Church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today.'



Questions by Nan Inkster

Where do all the daffodils go?
To where does their beauty fly?
Where does the passing time pass to?
And where do we go when we die?

These daffodils will see no more
This dazzling array of blue,
Nor feel the livening stir of breeze,
The blessed touch of dew.

But don't we know they only hide
Their beauty for a while?
For after winter's little death
We'll see again their smile.

Like sudden flash of sunlight
Across a shadowed vale,
And therein we read a promise
That we know will never fail.

For don't we see the palest dawn
Turns to fulsome flush of morn?
And from out the depths of the darkest night
A new day shall be born.

Our lips that sang aloud for joy
Must know ending of their song,
When all those glorious journeys cease,
Those paths we danced along.

But shall we not find another way
When all within is still?
Shall we know fresh flowering too,
Like the daffodils on the hill.

Just as dawn returns anew
Shall we see a fresh day break?
And with a new song on our lips
Glimpse a higher path to take.



Easter and Spring Quotations...

"Easter was when Hope in person surprised the whole world by coming forward from the future into the present."
(N. T. Wright)

"Spring shows what God can do with a drab and dirty world."
(Victor Kraft)

"The entire plan for the future has its key in the resurrection."
(Billy Graham)

"It is Spring again. The earth is like a child that knows poems by heart."
(Rainer Maria Rilke)

"God loves each of us as if there were only one of us."
(Saint Augustine)

"Do not abandon yourselves unto despair. We are the Easter people and HALLELUJAH is our song".
(Pope John Paul II)

"The deep roots never doubt spring will come."
(Marty Rubin)

"I really do believe that God is love, one of deep affection and grace and forgiveness and inspiration."
(William P. Young)

"The Easter Egg symbolises our ability to break out of the hardened, protective shell we've surrounded ourselves with."
(Siobhan Shaw)

"We are told to let our light shine, and if it does, we won't need to tell anybody it does. Lighthouses don't fire cannons to call attention to their shining...they just shine."
(Dwight L. Moody)

Easter is the soul's first taste of Spring."
(Richelle E. Goodrich)

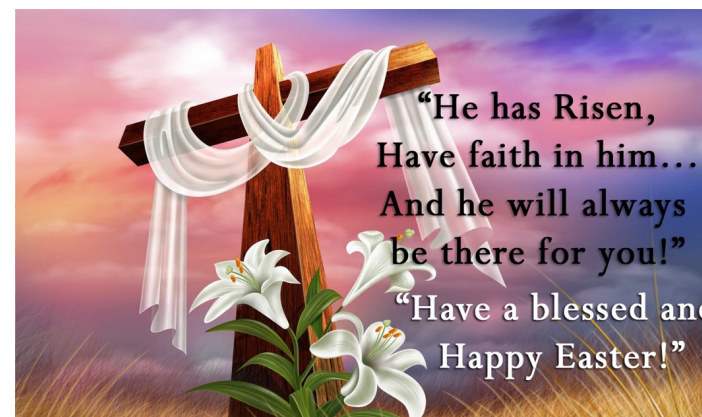
"Where man sees but withered leaves, God sees sweet flowers frowning."
(Albert Lighton)

"'Twas Easter Sunday. The full-blossomed trees filled all the air with fragrance and with joy."
(Henry Longfellow)

"He knows the way because He is the way."
(Jeffrey R. Holland)

"I believe in Christ, like I believe in the sun. Not because I can see it but by it I can see everything else."
(C.S. Lewis)

"Blessed are those who have not seen and have yet believed."
(John 20:29)



“Excelsior, AMDG.”

(Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris. Devasted by fire, 2019.
Re-opened 2024.)



A fanfare in stone
Rises to Parisian skies,
Cream-coloured columns
Soar in refulgent joy,
Limestone so newly clean
The wide-open spaces below
Seem full of prelusive light

To a new era.
This is a reasurrection.
The vibrant colours of stained glass,
Relieved of the grime of ages,
Blaze, glow, ‘giants the low winter sun.

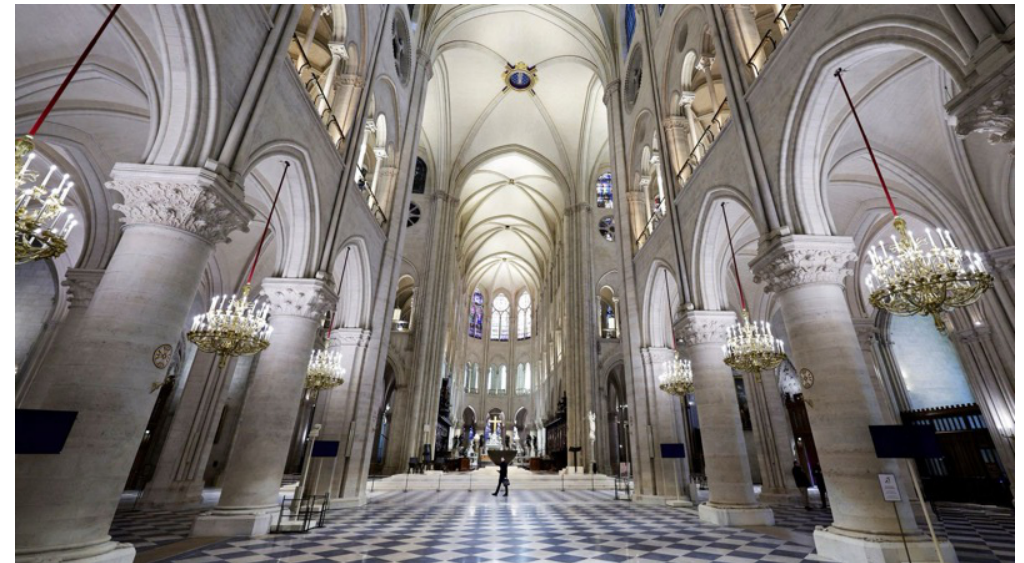
I am in awe of what
Has been here achieved.
All manner of artisans have
Exercised their craft, their skills;

Masons, carpenters, glaziers,
Have followed their medieval
Counterparts’ very traditions,
Rivalling and surpassing them
In five inspirational years.

Yes, pride in this is justified.
And hope too, soaring heavenwards
On pillars and giant oak beams,
Dazed from forest into forest,
Issues its own clarion call.

Hands and minds that can create
Such harmony and beauty
Can surely aspire to live
In concord and amity.

by Michael Kidd



Easter Prayer

Lord we lift our hearts to you.
As the dawn breaks, may we carry the unity we share into
every moment knowing that we are one with the risen
Christ.

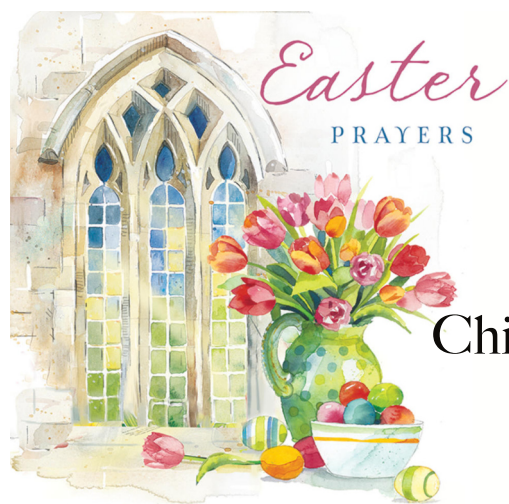
Lord, we lift our eyes to you. As the sun rises, may this
moment stay with us, reminding us to look for the
beautiful colours of promise in your word.

Lord, we lift our prayers to you. As the dew air falls, may
we breathe this morning in and know that like the earth,
you sustain us, keep us and work within us always.

And so, we lift our voices to you. We celebrate the
greatest day in history, when Jesus rose from death,
defeated darkness and bathed the world in resurrection
light.

May we ever live to praise you!

Amen.



Children's Easter Prayer

God made you and God made me,
He made the world for us to see.
God loves you and long ago,
He sent his Son to tell us so.
Jesus showed us many things,
To love and share and dance and sing.
To learn and pray, to help and care,
He promised he'd always be there.
He died but then came back to life,
Let's celebrate for he's alive! Amen.

A Broken Chrysalis by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

It's truly amazing what a girl will do for love.

My wife, Jean, and I lived next door to each other for ten years
before we were married. My sophomore interest in high school
biology had sparked a live caterpillar collection. Their home was a
shoe box, covered with screen wire. When I went on vacation, Jean
fed them faithfully with leaves from her willow tree. She hated it.
Finally the caterpillars stopped their incessant crawling and
chewing, attached their tails firmly to a stick and lay still, sheathed
with a shiny leather-like case. For weeks they seemed to be dead,
unmoving in their tiny grey wrappings. I removed the screen and
waited.

One by one, the grey cases began to twist and turn violently, and
suddenly split open. A beautiful butterfly emerged. It stood for
hours gently moving its wings, pumping fluids into them to extend
them fully. Then the butterfly soared gracefully away on the
breezes of summer, leaving nothing behind but a broken chrysalis
to indicate its former bondage.

The chrysalis and butterfly suggest the empty grave clothes of our
risen Lord. When Peter and John heard the news that the Lord's
body was gone from the garden tomb, they ran all the way from
their lodging. Peter entered the tomb and "he saw the strips of
linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around
Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the
linen" (John 20:6-7). The grave clothes once wrapped continuously
around the body now lay collapsed, mute testimony that the corpse
they had once shrouded had now emerged in life.

The bondage of death is broken. Christ is risen! We can face
tomorrow with the assurance that Jesus is in fact alive to help us, to
guide us, to give us hope for the future. And since He is living, our
problems are not insolvable. The broken chrysalis of His grave
clothes proclaims that Christ is Victor even over death. Because
He lives, nothing is impossible.



Speak On These Things by Edna Jacques

1. How many Easter eggs are sold in the UK every year?
2. Which country started the tradition of the Easter bunny?
3. How many marzipan balls are on a Simnel cake?
4. The first Easter eggs were dyed in what colour?
5. What is the tradition behind the hot cross bun?
6. In Switzerland, what animal delivers Easter eggs to children?
7. Which country grows the most daffodils?
8. What is the official flower of Easter?
9. Which day of Holy Week is to honour the Last Supper?
10. Easter always falls between which two dates?
11. Where is Easter Island located?
12. When was the first recorded use of decorated Easter eggs?
13. Where did the Easter bonnet originate from?
14. In the Bible, who betrayed Jesus just before his crucifixion?
15. When do Easter egg hunts traditionally take place?
16. What dance traditionally takes place at Easter?

If there be faith and love and charity,
The shining wonder of a bluebird's wings,
If there is joy and beauty in your life,
Speak on these things.

If there be trust when all men seem to doubt,
A lullaby that some young mother sings,
A neighbour on whose goodness you rely,
Speak on these things.

If there be majesty and truth and grace,
A happy message that the postman brings,
The welcome visitor who comes to call,
Speak on these things.

If there be goldenrod, like tapers lit,
An old grey wall where coloured ivy clings,
A garden where tall lilies scent the air,
Speak on these things.

If there is beauty in a world of ill,
A quiet valley where a church bell rings,
Where there is faith and love and little homes,
Speak on these things.

HAPPY
Easter

Giggles...



So I lay them and you get all the credit?

Why did the Easter Egg hide?

It was a little chicken!

What do rabbits say before they eat?

Lettuce pray!

What happened to the Easter bunny when he was naughty at school?

He was egg-spelled!

What do you call a bunny with fleas?

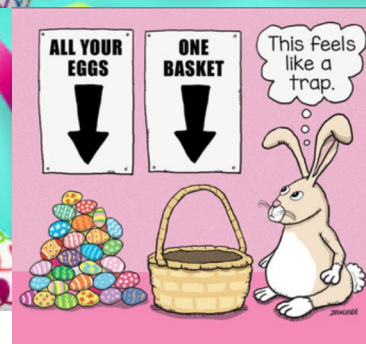
Bugs Bunny!

Why don't rabbits get hot in the summer?

They have hare conditioning!

What's an Easter Eggs least favourite day?

Fry-day!



What do you call a line of rabbits walking backwards?

A receding hare line!

How did the Easter Egg win the art show?

He did some egg-straordinary paintings!

Why did the baby chick cross the road?

To meet up with her peeps!

What does the Easter Bunny like to dance to?

Hip Hop!

Why did the Easter Bunny go on strike?

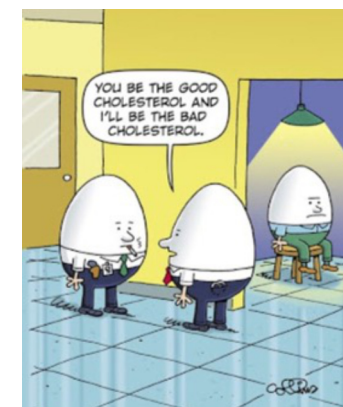
He wanted a better celery!

What stories do Easter Eggs tell their children?

Yoke tales!

What do you call the Easter Bunny the day after Easter?

Eggs-haunted!



How many words can you make
from...?

Springtime

To a Snowdrop

by William Wordsworth (1770 - 1850)

Lone Flower, hemmed in with snows and white as they
But harrier far, once more I see thee bend

They forehead, as if fearful to offend,
Like an unbidden guest. Though day by day,
Storms, sallying from the mountain-tops, waylay
The rising sun, and on the plains descend;
Yet art thou welcome, welcome as a friend
Whose zeal outruns his promise! Blue-eyed May
Shall soon behold this border thickly set
With bright jonquils, their odours lavishing
On the soft west-wind and his frolic peers;
Nor will I then my modest grace forget,
Chaste Snowdrop, venturous harbinger of Spring,
And pensive monitor of fleeting years!



Sonnet 98

by William Shakespeare (1564 - 1616)

From you I have been absent in the Spring,
When proud-pied April, dress'd in all his trim,

Hath put a spirit of youth in everything,
That heavy Saturn laugh'd, and leap'd with him,
Yet nor the lays of birds, nor the sweet smell
Of different flowers in odour and in hue,
Could make me any summer's story tell,
Or from their proud lap pluck them where they grew:
Nor did I wonder at the lily's white,
Nor praise the deep vermillion in the rose;
They were but sweet, but figures of delight,
Drawn after you - you pattern of all those.
Yet seem'd it winter still, and, you away,
As with your shadow I with these did play.



Quiz Answers

1. 80 million
2. Germany
3. 11
4. Red
5. The bun represents the cross on which Jesus died and the spices are sometimes said to represent embalming spices
6. The Easter Cuckoo (bird)
7. The UK
8. White Lilies
9. Maundy Thursday
10. March 22nd and April 25th. Easter is set to coincide with the first Sunday after the Paschal Full Moon, the first full moon after the vernal equinox.
11. The Southeast Pacific
12. In the 13th century
13. The origin of the Easter bonnet dates back to medieval Europe when women would dress up in their best, newest clothes as a sign of religious devotion during the Lenten season. The hats were often adorned with bright ribbons and flowers to symbolize renewal and rebirth.
14. Judas
15. On Easter Sunday morning
16. Morris dancing

**5.50am Easter Sunrise Service
at Taynult, Nelson's Monument**

**Come and join us celebrate the sunrise
on Easter Morning, followed by
a Bacon or Vegan Bacon Butty
with teas & coffees**

10.30am Easter Day, Sunday Service

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