



DATE	TIME	DEDICATION	INTENTION	CHURCH
Sat 4 th April	8 pm	EASTER VIGIL	Catherine & Joseph Jackman (Easter R.)	Holy Family
Sun 5 th April	9 am	EASTER DAY MASS	S.I. Christine Watts	Holy Family
Sun 5 th April	11.15 am	EASTER DAY MASS	Patricia Callender LD	Our Lady V
Sun 5 th April	3 pm	MISA DE PASCUA	EN ESPANOL Aniv. Matrimonio Hector-Maria	Our Lady V
Mon 6 th April		PASQUETTA	-----	The church is closed
Tue 7 th April	9 am	Octave of Easter	Assigned from other Church	Our Lady V
Wed 8 th April	9 am	Octave of Easter	Assigned from other Church	Our Lady V
Thu 9 th April	9pm	Octave of Easter	Assigned from other Church	Our Lady V
Fri 10 th April	9pm	Octave of Easter	Assigned from other Church	Our Lady V
Sat 11 th April	12 noon	Octave of Easter	Assigned from other Church	Our Lady V
Sun 12 th April	9 am	2nd Sunday of Easter	Assigned from other Church	Holy Family
Sun 12 th April	11.15 am	2nd Sunday of Easter	Parishioners	Our Lady V
Sun 12 th April	3 pm	SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY MASS	BILINGUAL	Our Lady V
Sun 19 th April	9 am	3rd Sunday of Easter	Assigned from other Church	Holy Family
Sun 19 th April	11.15 am	3rd Sunday of Easter	Parishioners	Our Lady V

Thank you Father Edson for celebrating Mass on Sunday 19th April while Fr Sergio is on his after Easter break. May God bless your ministry abundantly!

A Celebration of Word and Sacrament may be observed during weekdays from 14th to 18th April depending on availability of Ministers of Eucharist. See Notice on front door at OLOV

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Confessions: Tue 9.30am to 10am; Sat 11am to 12

Holy Rosary & Divine Mercy Devotion: Tuesdays 9.30 am OLOV.

Baptisms, Weddings: by appointments.

Wednesday Club: Closed during Eastertime

The Parishes of Holy Family Ince Blundell Our Lady of Victories, Hightown

Email: olovhfib@rcaol.org.uk / Tel.: 0151 936 1533

Website: <https://olovhfib.org.uk/>

Presbytery: Sandy Lane, Hightown, L38 3RP

Parish Priest: Fr Sergio Haro

Archdiocese of Liverpool, Reg. Charity Number 1199714

OLOV, Hightown: Sort Code: 40-29-12, Account: 01544993

Holy Family: Sort Code: 40-29-12, Account: 71545094



Easter Sunday (A): 4th April 2026



FATHER SERGIO'S HOMILY FOR EASTER VIGIL

It's true. It's all true. Christ is risen! That's the only thing that needs to be said today. In some ways it's the only thing that can be said. That Jesus has been raised from the dead is the only thing I really have to tell you today. Nothing more. Nothing less. It's the same thing the angel told the two women who went to Jesus' tomb. He didn't tell them once but twice. "He is not here; he has been raised." "He has been raised from the dead." It was true. They saw Jesus. They touched him. They heard his voice. It was all true.

St. Matthew doesn't offer much more than that in his account of the gospel (Matthew 28:1-10). He does not explain how it happened, only that it did. He is more interested in us living the truth of this story than he is in us knowing the details of the story. The truth of this story, as he tells it, is earth shaking. It changes the ground on which we stand and the way in which we live.

Every year I come to this day wanting only one thing. I want to be told and reminded that the story is true, that it can be trusted, that it is a reality in my life. I suspect that's what you also want and why you are here today.

Why do I say that? Why do I come here every year wanting to be reminded the story is true? Why do I think that this is what you want?

I never leave here disappointed. I always leave here knowing that the truth of Easter – life, light, joy, hope – is greater than the truth of what brought me here.

And I don't think for one minute that this is only about me. Every one of you could name a darkness you have faced over the last year. Some of you are today sitting amid darkness. I may not know what your darkness is or has been, but I know it's real. That's why I think you come here today wanting to be told and reminded that this story is true. You came to the right place. You will not leave here disappointed. The angel's message to the women is the Church's message to us today. **"He has been raised from the dead." It is still true.**

The story is true. You can count on it. It's for you and your life. It was true yesterday, it is true today, and it will be true tomorrow. Sometimes it takes months or even years for resurrection to free us from the tomb and pull us out of the darkness, but it will. God never leaves anyone in the darkness of the tomb.

The stone has been rolled away from the tomb. The day dawns with a new light. The earthquakes in celebration and joy. Christ is risen and in him so have you and I.

That's why this place is filled with light, candles, flowers, and alleluias. Those are not just decorations and songs; they are God's truth about your life and my life. They are the signs of Easter truth and resurrection reality.

Today reminds us that the light of resurrection always prevails.

Darkness cannot overcome the light. Regardless of who you are, the light prevails.

Regardless of what you have done or left undone; the light prevails.

Regardless of your doubts or beliefs, the light prevails.

Regardless of your life's circumstances, the light prevails.

I can't tell you how it happens, but I know it does.

The light of resurrection always wins. Everything about today says we can trust that.

That changes everything about how we live. We now live everyday as Easter. Christ's resurrection is not a one-day celebration. It is a way of life. It means every cross flowers with new life, every tomb becomes a womb of new birth, and every darkness has been overcome by light. It's true. It's still true. Christ is risen!

FR SERGIO'S HOMILY FOR EASTER SUNDAY 2026

"... The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me." (Mt. 28, 1-10)

"Do not be afraid" the angel announces. "He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said." The empty tomb proclaims that all is well. "Go quickly," the angel tells them, "you will see Jesus." And once they have seen Jesus, Jesus told them, "Do not be afraid". How much we need the words of Jesus and the angel, **"Do not be afraid"**, we truly need these words in our world today with so many wars. How many people live in fear nowadays!

This is the Church's story. It is the same old story told every year. Some of you have heard this story only a few times. Others have heard it 60, 70, maybe 80 times. The story never changes. Instead, it changes us. Each year we gather to hear this story for only one reason: so that we can leave; so that we can leave the darkness and tombs of our lives and live. We want to be reminded, "There is nothing here. Do not be afraid. All is well."

Too often we think resurrection is about what happens to us after we die. We limit resurrection to nothing more than a promise of life after death. The power and gift of resurrection are not so much in what happens after death but right here, now, today. Perhaps we should worry less about whether there is life after death and more about whether there is life before death.

The joy of Easter is not only that God has raised Christ from the dead. Easter joy is also about the possibility and the promise that, regardless of what our lives are like now, new life is available to each one of us here and now. God has raised Christ from the dead and we are now free to claim his life as our own.

What matters most about Easter is not the empty tomb, but what we do tomorrow, the day after, and the day after that. How will we now live differently? Jesus did not die and rise again so that we might continue life as usual. If this new life and freedom do not change us we might as well put the stone back over the tomb. If we leave here today and don't think about Easter again until next year, then we've entirely missed the gift. Our lives are the evidence of resurrection, or not.

We are no longer prisoners to the power or fear of sin, darkness, and death. We don't have to be worried about how all of this is going to turn out. Life is eternal. Love is immortal. We are free to live. We are free to love. The end of the resurrection story is the beginning of our life. Christ is risen. So, live fully alive now. Why wait until after death? Darkness has become light. Sin has been forgiven. The tomb has become the womb of new creation. There is no more death. Life is everywhere.

PASQUETTA or Easter Monday, or Monday of the Angel:



Italian people call the Monday after Easter Sunday: **Pasquetta**. It is also officially known as **Lunedì dell'Angelo** (Monday of the Angel), honouring the angel who appeared to the women at Christ's empty tomb. The tradition of **Pasquetta** is a closely-held one, maintained with almost religious fervour though it is a civil holiday. The day after Easter Sunday is called "Pasquetta" (little Easter) and is a day to relax. It was instituted in the post-war period to create a long weekend, which allows people to have a weekend getaway, or at least a "scampagnata" (jaunt to

The countryside). In fact, that is the main way to celebrate Pasquetta -pack a picnic and head for the country! Hordes of people go to the mountains, the hills, or the beach, or their own family's country property, to enjoy a picnic or a barbecue outdoors. It is the holiday that heralds spring and is a festive, enjoyable day.

Food often includes something with eggs, in keeping with the Easter theme, like a cold frittata, or a "pizza rustica" filled with greens and hard-boiled eggs. Sometimes things get more elaborate, but often it is just a simple lunch of salami, cheese, hard boiled eggs, fruit, good bread, and of course some wine, spent with friends or family.

A banner for Divine Mercy Sunday. On the left, it says "DIVINE MERCY Sunday" in blue and white text. In the center is an image of Jesus Christ with his hands raised, wearing a white robe with a rainbow sash. On the right, it says "The Divine Mercy Devotion" in white text on a red background. Below the image, it says "NOVENA STARTS ON GOOD FRIDAY AT 3PM, THEN EVERYDAY UNTIL 11th APRIL" and "MASS OF THE DIVINE MERCY: 12th APRIL 3PM AT OUR LADY OF VICTORIES".

A banner with a photograph of Father Sergio on the left, wearing white vestments and holding a book. To the right, the text reads: "Father Sergio wishes you all a very Happy and Blessed Easter! Jesus Christ is Risen from the dead!" in red, cursive-style font.

THANK YOU very much to all those who have helped with the cleaning and decoration of the churches for this Easter Festivities.

THANK YOU as well for your generosity to the poor during the Lenten alms giving!

Thank You!

We pray for all who are sick and elderly:

Marie Tyrer, Ray Sherwood, Betty Maurey, Henry Henderson, Anne and Mike Quinn, Ronnie Baybut, Geoff Morrissey, Michael Hyland, Paul Blackford, Harry Caine, Sophie Caine, Christine Watts, Deacon John and Ann Crooks, Joan Callaghan, Natalie Kavanagh, Hannalor Mainey, Betty Costello, Pauline Hayes, Irene Halsall.

We pray for those whose Anniversary occurs at this time: Anthony Billington, John Brown (Snr) Thomas P. Georgeson, Sammy Gandy, Mary Lyness, David Williams, Margaret Jennings, Richard Tyrer, Sarah Brennon, Fran Hawkhead, Martin McNicholas, Daniel O'Sullivan, John Brown Seddon, Pauline Barrow, Canon Jimmy Collins.