



The Parish Churches of S Philip and S Augustine
and S Matthew with S Mary the Virgin Newcastle

Homily for Easter Day (5th April) 2026

What follows is a version of the Homily to be preached at the High Mass on Easter Day.

If you are taking in what is happening around you this morning, you will probably notice that we have thrown open the dressing-up box and got out the best bling. The reason is that this is Easter Day, the most important day for Christians, when we celebrate Jesus' Resurrection - His rising from the dead after His Death on the Cross three days earlier.

If you were to ask why it is so important for us, a full answer would be very long and before I had even got into my stride, the choir would have started the Litany and the servers would have headed off towards the Font in a subtle hint that I had gone on quite long enough, so I will just pick out one point.

Through the Resurrection of Jesus, God reveals hope to the world: hope that our individual lives can be better; hope that the lives of our communities can be better; hope that the life of the world can be better. This is not the, "I hope I win the Lottery," kind of hope, but actually a prediction that life will be better, when we learn to shape our choices and actions more closely around the teaching of Jesus, Who was and is the expression of God's Will for us all.

In a way, although it is events from two thousand years ago, which bring us here, our celebration is as much of something yet to come: the fulfilment of the hope revealed to those first Christians, when they found that Jesus had walked out the Tomb alive. It is what we call the Good News of Jesus Christ.

You might look around you and think to yourself, "There aren't many people here, if it is such good news;" and you would be right. It is the job of Christian communities to keep alive the knowledge of that hope until individuals are ready to hear it, communities are ready to hear it, the world is ready to hear it.

... and that brings us to Poppy and her Baptism. Today, Poppy will be made a member of our Christian community and at the Font, God will tap her on the shoulder and ask her to be part of the company, which keeps alive the knowledge of the hope He revealed in Jesus' Resurrection. You might think that maybe she will, maybe she won't; but in one way at least, perhaps, she will. Sometimes, when you see Poppy, you might remember that she was baptized on Easter Day and be reminded of the hope revealed when Jesus rose from the dead.