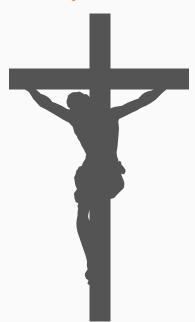


Easter Mass with Fr. Dellinger at 9 an

Thanks to everyone who filled out the poll. A service time of 9 am was the clear winner. The 9 am Easter Mass will be followed by our traditional Easter breakfast and fellowship, more details on the potluck coming in the next issue!

Mark Your Calendar: Tenebrae April 18

Plan to attend St. Mark's Tenebrae service Friday, April 18 at 6:30 pm. Cantor Tom Busse will have a choir join him in this service commemorating the suffering and death of Our Lord. Tenebrae features profound music and ceremony, culminating in the gradual extinguishing of candles and a "strepitus" or "loud noise" taking place in total darkness near the end of the service. Bring a friend for this holy, unforgettable experience!



Worship Schedule

April 6
8 am & 10 am
Morning and Evening Prayer

April 13 8 am & 10 am w/Fr. Dellinger Palm Sunday Blessing of Easter Baskets (see pg 4

> April 18 (Good Friday) Tenebrae 6:30 pm

April 20 Easter Mass 9 am Breakfast in Parish Hall

Wednesdays during Lent
Evening Prayer 6 pm followed by
potluck & Oxford Movement
discussion



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Anglican Pioneer and Hymn Writer: Reginald Heber

April 3, 2025 is the 199th Anniversary of the death of Reginald Heber, the second Bishop of Calcutta who died in 1826 at just 42 from heat-related illness after a confirmation service for Tamil converts.

A pioneer of Anglican missionary work in India, Bishop Heber was a supporter of the Church Missionary Society and a cofounder of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

Bishop Heber faced a difficult challenge establishing Anglicanism on the subcontinent, ordaining the first native-born Indian deacon, raising the funds to make the project workable and captaining an ambitious building program. Bishop Heber engaged in dialogue with non-Christians and fostered relationships with other Christians evangelizing in India.

A strong High Churchman, Bishop Heber was renowned as a poet and one of the earliest High Church hymn-writers. His missionary anthem From Greenland's Icy Mountains captures his zeal for lost souls, and his hymn Holy Holy Holy! Lord God Almighty is a Trinity Sunday staple. Bishop Heber's journals and other writings make for fascinating and inspiring reading and are freely available online. Bishop Heber is an inspiring symbol of Anglican fidelity to the Great Commission.









Wednesday Night Oxford Movement Discussions by Sexton Alastair Jaques

It is with great delight that I can announce we've finally come to the part in our Oxford Movement discussions where we were able to discuss the actual Oxford Movement.

A church like our Parish of St Mark simply could not be the kind of sacred space that it is were it not for the works, writings, and holy lives of that group of scholars and churchmen emerging out of the University of Oxford in the first half of the nineteenth century. The Anglo-Catholic faith: a uniquely Anglican amalgamation of western Christendom combining the beauty and majesty of catholicism with the intellectual independence and spirit of inquiry of Protestantism—it could never have been were it not for the work and at time very real sacrifices of men like John Keble, John Mason Neale, and Edward Bouverie Pusey. I'm just sorry it took us three weeks to get around to talking about them.





I can find solace in reflecting, though, that what really kept us from approaching the Oxford Movement on a deeper level was the enthusiasm for the devotional aspect of our Wednesday night meetings taking precedence over group discussion. People's interest and engagement with Prayer Book catechism, rosary, and this last Wednesday night's stations of the cross would cut into time for discussion afterwards, it's true. Nevertheless, it was because we were all taking the time to come together to pray more and that's something I think those great figures of the Oxford Movement would have cared about the most.





Blessing of Easter Baskets on Palm Sunday, April 13 following both 8 & 10 am mass

Let's begin a new Easter Tradition at St Mark's with a special Easter Blessing that will be offered in the Parish Hall on Palm Sunday following the service or services scheduled for that day, April 13. Bring your prepared Easter giving baskets and/or a basket filled with the foods symbolic of your Easter dinner meal or the actual ingredients you will be using to prepare your Easter meal. Ideas:

Eggs - symbolizing new life and Christ's resurrection. They may be hard boiled and decorated, simply colored, or raw and used in your special Easter dessert. If hard-boiled, cut the egg in half and share it with a loved one since the eggs have been blessed, toss all egg shells on the lawn giving them back to nature.

Bread - represents Jesus Christ as the Bread of Life. It's a reminder of the sustenance and blessings received throughout the year.

Salt - a symbol of purification and the necessity of life. May it serve as a reminder of your Christian duty to be the 'salt of the earth.' (generous, kind).

Meat - usually ham or sausage, symbolizing abundance and joy. It represents the joy and abundance of Christ's resurrection.

Horseradish - its bitterness reminds Christians of the Passion of Christ and the harshness of life, while its strength signifies physical and spiritual strength.

Or butter, cheese, flour are other foods that appear on your Easter table or in the foods you prepare. Also consider bringing wine and candles that may adorn your Easter table.

Here is one example of what to include in your basket: hard boiled eggs, bread (or flour), wine, salt and candles. Line your basket with a special cloth or napkin or a white linen cloth symbolizing purity and the cloth itself represents the covering of Christ's shroud. Decorate with sprigs of greenery (or garden herbs), pussy willows, forsythia or daffodils (symbolizing spring and renewal).

A special thanks goes out to Lorraine Barkley for bringing this idea forth and sharing her firsthand experience with this Eastern European Easter tradition reflecting themes of sacrifice, resurrection, and joy.

