Happy Easter!

The Easter season is a time of hope. There still is fear, there still is a painful awareness of sinfulness, but there also is light breaking through. Something new is happening, something that goes beyond the changing moods of our life. We can be joyful or sad, optimistic or pessimistic, tranquil or angry, but the solid stream of God’s presence moves deeper than the small waves of our minds and hearts. Easter brings the awareness that God is present even when his presence is not directly noticed. Easter brings the good news that, although things seem to get worse in the world, the Evil One has already been overcome. Easter allows us to affirm that although God seems very distant and although we remain preoccupied with many little things, our Lord walks with us on the road and keeps explaining the Scriptures to us. Thus there are many rays of hope casting their light on our way through life.

Henri Nouwen (1932-1996)

GOOD FRIDAY & EASTER free us to think about other things far beyond our own personal fate, about the ultimate meaning of all life, suffering, and events; and we lay hold of a great hope.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945)
Foot-washing for beginners

On Thursday of Holy Week, Jesus ate the Passover meal with His disciples and then washed their feet before going to the Garden of Gethsemane where He was betrayed. (John 13:1-17)

I see you kneel before me, Lord,
Waiting to wash my feet.
I hesitate – not because they’re not dirty,
But because I feel vulnerable;
Your touch will expose my weaknesses.

My feet are like some other parts of my life,
The areas I haven’t been able to let you in to.
Pride and embarrassment make me hide them;
Like keeping on my shoes and socks,
Forgetting that, for you, no area is untouchable.

Foot washing is too menial a task for you, I claim.
Yet if I allow you to do this thing
Not only will you see what is unsightly:
Reveal my athlete’s foot; expose my Achilles’ heel,
But in doing so, you’ll bring healing and wholeness.

Now we’re your body here on earth,
You call us to stoop and serve, to show compassion,
To minister to each other without fear or judgement,
To serve and to allow ourselves to be served,
To love as you love us, in the power of your Spirit.
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The shortest distance between a problem and a solution
is the distance between your knees and the floor.

The one who kneels to the Lord can stand up to anything.
Why does the date of Easter change?

Why does the date more around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites’ exodus from Egypt and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for Good Friday: Friday 7 April, 30 AD or Friday 3 April, 33 AD, with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these the most likely. Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an ecclesiastical full moon’, which is not the same as the moon in the sky.

The earliest possible date for Easter using these calculations, called the Gregorian calendar, is 22 March, which last fell in 1818 and won’t fall again until 2285. The latest is 25 April, which last happened in 1943 and is next due in 2038. However, not all parts of the Christian world use the same calculations and there are alternative dates under the “Julian calendar”.

There have been attempts at reform. For example in 1997, the World Council of Churches proposed a reform of the Easter calculation to replace an equation-based method of calculating Easter with direct astronomical observation. This would have solved the Easter date difference between churches that observe the Gregorian calendar and those that observe the Julian calendar and was proposed to be implemented in 2001, but it has not yet been adopted.

Welcome to Bishop Greg, who has been appointed interim leader of the English congregation at the Good Shepherd. He is Archbishop Emeritus, former Bishop of Peru and Bolivia, former Bishop of Argentina, and former Primate of South America. He is currently in Paraguay and will be in Lima towards the end of April. Bishop Greg knows the Good Shepherd well, having been our interim leader in the mid-1990s.
Music and Words that Inspire

Easter in the northern hemisphere means Spring, new life, but even when here we are moving into Autumn, there is also so much to celebrate in the magnificent creation of the earth. John Rutter, a contemporary British choral composer, expresses this so beautifully in the first three pieces listed with their links below, especially in his own setting to the classic words of All Things Bright and Beautiful.

Another of his compositions is Wings of the Morning, which takes verses from Psalm 139 to remind us that it doesn’t matter where we are, God is always with us, by his hand he leads us. And the last piece is a blessing, taken from the book of Numbers.

You can find more of Rutter’s music on Youtube, and on www.johnrutter.com

For the Beauty of the Earth by John Rutter
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qRh2ZcxddtA&list=RDpvfcAHCTkO0&index=2

Look at the World
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDa-Mab4SoU

All Things Bright and Beautiful
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ShpRCvU_bxM

Wings of the Morning (Psalm 139 v.9-10))
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qg-f-ln4vPk

The Lord Bless You and Keep You (Numbers 6:24)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DdGPnR-KyHE

What is the origin of the Christian fish symbol?

The Greek word for fish is "ichthys." As early as the first century, Christians made an acrostic from this word: Iesous Christos Theou Yios Soter, i.e. Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior. The fish has plenty of other theological overtones as well, for Christ fed the 5,000 with 2 fishes and 5 loaves (a meal recapitulated in Christian love-feasts) and called his disciples "fishers of men."

 idxs, Romans, and many other pagans used the fish symbol before Christians. Hence the fish, unlike, say, the cross, attracted little suspicion, making it a perfect secret symbol for persecuted believers. When threatened by Romans in the first centuries after Christ, Christians used the fish mark meeting places and tombs, or to distinguish friends from foes. According to one ancient story, when a Christian met a stranger in the road, the Christian sometimes drew one arc of the simple fish outline in the dirt. If the stranger drew the other arc, both believers knew they were in good company.

St. Francis of Assisi: 
the stained glass window and the prayer

This is one of the beautiful windows in our Cathedral, donated in memory of Canon Beattie, who was vicar when the Good Shepherd church was built in Miraflores.

The famous prayer associated with St. Francis was, in fact, written by an anonymous French writer about 100 years ago, but became linked with the spirit of the 13th-century friar whose continual striving to follow more closely the Gospel of Jesus Christ led to a renewal in the church.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me bring love.  
Where there is offense, let me bring pardon.  
Where there is doubt, let me bring faith.  
Where there is despair, let me bring hope.  
Where there is darkness, let me bring your light.  
Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.  

O Master, let me not seek as much to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love,  
for it is in giving that one receives,  
it is in pardoning that one is pardoned,  
it is in dying that one is raised to eternal life.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=daGWdbrSGBM

Church Signs

There was a church that had problems with outsiders parking in its parking lots, so they put up a sign: 
CHURCH CAR PARK - FOR MEMBERS ONLY. Trespassers will be baptized!

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"Searching for a new look? Have your faith lifted here!"

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"If you can't sleep, don't count sheep. Talk to the Shepherd.

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The Good Shepherd’s Social Work

Student Support Programme

The programme been very successful over the past year, despite difficult economic circumstances. We received two donations from the UK early in 2021, several donations from members of our congregation, and towards the end of the year we were blessed with a monthly pledge of $550, which has allowed us to take on three new students.

We help young people who have had extreme financial difficulty in continuing or completing their studies, and who may have to abandon their studies when someone in the family falls ill or becomes unemployed. Prospective students are vetted by our experienced social worker and their academic results are regularly followed up.

The programme has seen nurses, a mechanic, teachers, physiotherapists, lawyers and computer programmers graduate and find work. Sometimes only six months of support have been necessary. An Accountancy student has just obtained his Bachelor’s degree. We are currently supporting a 19 year-old woman (Computer Science), a 26 year-old woman (Psychology) who had to stop studying after 2½ years due to family difficulties, a 25 year-old woman (Psychology) who lost her father and whose mother then lost her job, and a 19 year-old medical student who cannot afford all the medical equipment required.

We are always seeking funding for this programme and will be happy to give more details to anyone interested. For additional information please contact: Jean Samaniego at samaniegopritchard@yahoo.co.uk or the church secretary at goodshepherd@anglicanperu.org

Prison Ministry

Lucha Fallaque continues with her prison ministry now for the 42nd year. She is in contact with three women’s prisons, Virgen de Fátima, Santa Mónica and the Santa Monica annex. With the help of friends and the Good Shepherd support, Lucha obtains many materials needed for the children, including diapers for the babies. Children aged three years old and under are allowed to live with their mothers in prison. There are currently 19 children in Santa Mónica.

Before the pandemic, Lucha held regular workshops with the women to teach them various handicrafts, which she then sells for them at various fairs in Lima, including at our Christmas Bazaar. She is now unable to go in person but the social worker visits her regularly to learn the techniques and collect the materials necessary for the workshop, and then holds the classes herself. Lucha is greatly loved and appreciated by the prisoners and we thank her for her dedication to this ministry.

Covid Food Relief Report - 30 June – 1 December 2021

For five months the Good Shepherd, through Rosemary Underhay, has contributed to 300 street kitchens in the district Villa Maria del Triunfo, which has a population of 400,000, contributing to 20,000 meals through the purchase of 14.5 tons of potatoes. Shalom, the centre for children with handicaps in Pamplona Alta, was also given S/. 200 and 100kg of potatoes. Each street kitchen sent a daily video of the people cooking, the ingredients used and the final meal provided, plus the queue of people coming for the meal. The two local coordinators were in continual contact with Rosemary.

Every week and each time the people received a delivery, a written Bible verse was sent, along with a recording to their whatsapp group. As many of the women do not know the Scriptures, they are unaware that what they are doing is what God asks us to do. Some were really happy when they learnt this. Others said that it strengthened them.

www.goodshepherdlima.org GOOD SHEPHERD CATHEDRAL goodshepherd@anglicanperu.org
The Passion Flower

To think about next time you drink maracuyá juice..

The fascinating Passion Flower ("Passiflora") became known to the West around A.D. 1610, when an Augustinian brought drawings of the flower from Mexico. There are several interpretations of the symbolism seen in the flower, including these by Jacomo Bosio, a monk who was writing a treatise on Christ's Passion.

The spiralled tendrils — the lash of Christ's scourging
The central flower column — the pillar of the Scourging
The 72 radial filaments — the Crown of Thorns
The top 3 stigma — the 3 Nails
The lower 5 anthers — the 5 wounds
The Style — the Sponge used to moisten Christ's lips with vinegar
The leaves (some species) — the head of the Centurion's Spear
The red stains — Christ's Blood Drops
The Round Fruit — The World Christ came to save
The Fragrance — The Spices prepared by the women

Bosio also noted that the flowers opened for one day, and then closed back up into their bell-like shapes. This, he postulated, could be so because "in His infinite wisdom it pleases Him to create it thus, shut up and protected, as though to indicate that the wonderful mysteries of the Cross and of His Passion were to remain hidden from the heathen people of these countries until the time preordained by His highest Majesty."

There are over 600 species of Passiflora (some with edible fruits -- "passion fruit"), so they come in all colors -- white, yellow, pink, red, purple, blue. They originate in the South American rain forest, but are now found all over the world. Passiflora is known in Spanish not only as "flor passionis," but as "flor de las cinco llagas" -- "flower of the five wounds."

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People are funny.

They want the front of the bus, the middle the road, and the back of the church.

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Wordsearch

Jesus Christ – the Lamb of God, our salvation, whose crucifixion on the cross was the perfect sacrifice to take away the sin of the world and bring about our redemption.
- The Romans placed a crown of thorns on His head, but Jesus is King in a different sense.
- We, like the apostles and Mary, try to follow Jesus, but the rooster reminds us of our weakness.
- The reason for holy Jesus being prepared to die – love.
- The resurrection – Jesus, our risen Savior, alive for evermore!