

MARCH 2026



ALL SAINTS'
ANGLICAN CHURCH
COLLINGWOOD

Easter Newsletter 2026

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HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

**Palm Sunday March 29th
9:30am – Holy Communion**

**Wednesday April 1st
10am – Holy Communion
Bible Study 11am**

**Maundy Thursday April 2nd
7pm**

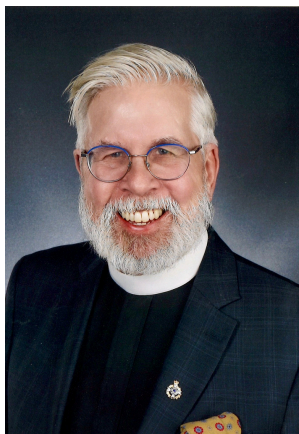
**Good Friday April 3rd
12pm**

**Easter Vigil Saturday April 4th
8pm**

**Easter Sunday April 5th
9:30am – Holy Communion**



FATHER MICHAEL PETERSON



Dear Saints:

Easter begins in darkness. In St. John's account, Mary Magdalene comes to Jesus' tomb "while it was still dark" (Jn 20.1), only to find the stone rolled away from the entrance. Confusion and uncertainty follow this discovery. None of Jesus' friends seem to remember his promise that he would die but "after three days rise again" (Mk 8:31). Even as dawn brightens the garden, Mary does not realize that the man she is speaking with is not the gardener, but is in fact the risen Jesus.

Perhaps Easter begins in darkness because it takes our eyes time to adjust to the reality of our friend, teacher, and king, returned from the land of shadows and standing brightly in our midst. It takes time to realize that the light of Christ has come, that even in the darkness of the tomb, God's mighty and creative word spoke life into God's Son's lifeless body. Against that word, the tomb could not remain darkened and shut. The light and life of Christ can never be kept out of the world. The Risen One comes and stands amongst us, his friends, and we find that our eyes can bear his brightness.

All through this winter, at our Saturday evening Après Ski services, as our church filled with candlelight, I've been reflecting on the meaning of light to us as God's people. Light is life and warmth. Light beckons us and leads us to shelter. Light allows us to see our path. Light is wisdom, banishing our ignorance, and light is hope, dispelling our fears. In these and in so many other ways, we could say that we as Christians are people who look to the light of Christ.

This year, there are many opportunities for our worship and liturgy to remind us that we are people of light. On Maundy Thursday (7pm) at All Saints, the church will darken and be stripped and will remain bare for our noon Good Friday worship. On Saturday evening (8pm) at All Saints, the new fire will be kindled outside the church, tapers will be lit from the paschal candle, and (we hope) a new Christian will be baptized and will receive the light of Christ in the form of a candle. On Sunday all our region's churches will be bright and white as we welcome our risen Lord.

I encourage you to take opportunities to participate in our worship through Holy Week and to reflect on what the light of Christ means to you. Perhaps you need that light to lead you out of dark moments and thoughts. Or, perhaps, that light has already brought you to a warm place where you can be joyful and grateful. Wherever you are on your journey, I pray that the light of Christ will guide you, cheer you, and give you hope.

May Christ, God's bright living word, be with you.

Fr Michael

FATHER SHARON SANGSTER



THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

Go into almost any church, anywhere, regardless of language or culture, and you will see the cross displayed, either physically or through stained glass windows or pieces of art. This is an ancient symbol, which pre-dates Christianity. But because of Jesus' sacrifice it has become central to the Christian faith.

The cross has a horizontal arm, which represents our earthy, physical life, our human experience, as well as our life here, now, including our joys and sorrows, our struggles, our challenges. The vertical represents our life beyond the physical. It shows our transcendence to life beyond ourselves, our connection to our spiritual and heavenly life. We are more than flesh and blood.

Some crosses have Jesus' body, a depiction of the crucifixion. This is a reminder of Jesus' passion – his death on the cross. He endured this most horrible death to bring redemption for all humankind. His death brought salvation, with the payment for our sins.

Some crosses are “empty”. Yes, this is still a symbol of Christ's passion and death, but also of resurrection. The victory over death and sin brings hope and life. Jesus has conquered death, and rose victorious from the grave.

We are people of resurrection. We live out our lives knowing that we can come to God without fear. Through the journey of Lent we have had the opportunity for self reflection, for soul searching, for penance. We have entered into the days of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem, through his arrest, his trial, his torture, his death. But with Easter, we move to the amazing miracle of the resurrection, the unbelievable power of God. Jesus lives!

Easter is a principle feast day in the church, as the fulfillment of prophecy, and the promise of eternal life, but also for the hope, peace and joy in our life today. No matter what our life here holds for us, we have Jesus's presence with us to guide and support us. The light of the resurrection illumines our hearts so that we may carry that light to all that we meet.

Bryce and I wish you and yours all the blessings of this joyous season!

Sharon+

