

EASTER DAWN EUCHARIST 2021 – ST MARY’S

NB. Delivered to a cold outdoor congregation - 3 degrees Celsius!

This is the strangest Easter we have had since – well, since last Easter. But at least we have been able to light the Easter fire.

Fire has been mankind’s companion since the beginning. The Greek myth was that Prometheus stole fire from the gods and gave it to mankind. More prosaically, our most distant ancestors found fire, most likely after a lightning strike, and carefully kept it alive. Then hunter gatherers, and Boy Scouts, found you can make fire by spinning a dry stick very fast in a hole in a dry log. Then we found you can make sparks by striking steel on flint. Then in the 19th century came phosphorus matches; and in the 20th century came piezoelectric sparks. It is nice that this morning I lit the fire using a lighter, a combination of a traditional flint and modern liquefied natural gas.

Fire has through the ages been a source of light and warmth and the key to all kinds of productive enterprises. Fire has also accompanied mankind’s spiritual journey.

In the Bible, fire in the burning bush summoned Moses, a pillar of fire guided the Israelites through the desert, the coming of the Holy Spirit was likened to tongues of fire. That is the fire which gives light to our feet, warmth to our hearts and to our companionship and energy to our mission.

This Easter, this strange Easter, let us rekindle the fire, with inspiration from ancient and modern, traditional and new, to guide us, to drive us, to keep us warm, so that we can share widely the joy of the risen Christ.