

## This week's services



### Sunday 7th April

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, **Leafield**  
6.00pm, Evensong, **Ramsden**

### Friday 12th April

6.30pm, Evening Prayer, **Wilcote**

### Sunday 14th April

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, **Ramsden**  
6.00pm, Evening Prayer, **Leafield**



## These Bible readings are designated for each day

<b>Monday</b>	<i>Romans 5: 12-end</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<i>Colossians 1: 15-end</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<i>Colossians 2: 1-15</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	<i>Colossians 2: 16-3.11</i>
<b>Friday</b>	<i>Colossians 3: 12-4.1</i>
<b>Saturday</b>	<i>Colossians 4: 2-end</i>

### Please pray for the following throughout the week

**Monday** *Those who are sick or grieving within our community.*

**Tuesday** *Those who are suffering in this country and around the world.*

**Wednesday** *The King and other leaders in this country.*

**Thursday** *For the troubled areas around the world, we pray for peace and justice.*

**Friday** *For the ministry of the Forest Edge Benefice and for those who lead us.*

**Saturday** *For an abundance of love, peace, harmony and forgiveness to reign within families and relationships.*

Please also pray for the Chipping Norton Deanery.



If we as a Church can help in any way, please contact:

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# PEW SHEET



**7th April 2024**  
2nd Sunday of Easter

**Please take this pew sheet with you when you leave.**

Benefice website:

<http://www.forestedgebenefice.co.uk>

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## The Collect



Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

## First Reading Acts 4: 32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

**Gospel Reading**  
**John 20: 19-end**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.



Would we be counted  
among the doubters  
hiding in the shadow  
cast by that cruel cross?  
Or, when challenged,  
like Peter  
openly deny you?  
There are times, Lord  
when doubts assail  
and the distance between us  
seems to increase.  
There are times, Lord  
when sin has its hold,  
like a barrier between us  
that will not move.  
Who is there we can turn to  
when we feel so overwhelmed?  
Who can roll away the stone  
and reveal the empty tomb?  
No-one but you, Jesus,  
no-one but you!



John Baptist De La Salle is the patron saint of teachers, and today is the anniversary of his death. 300 years ago he wrote these words for teachers: "Take even more care of the young people entrusted to you than if they were the children of a king." His words remind all of us of whatever age to respect one another's dignity as unique individuals. A few years ago, a black South African teacher talked of working with black South African schoolchildren. He had spoken to one lad who looked miserable, and said to him: "You are created in the image of God. Don't walk round with your eyes cast down." It has been said that the job of a Christian school is not to make people into something that they are not, but to convince them of who they already are. "Respect" is about treating others in the same way that we would like to be treated. Let's each of us focus on one way today of showing respect for others in. For example, - using the person's name when speaking to them; - holding the door open for whoever is behind us; - saying "thanks" whenever we are given something.

**Lord Jesus,  
you invite each of us by name  
and you call us "friends".  
Lead us  
to show as much respect and care for others  
as we would like them to show for us.  
Help us to look for  
and bring out the best  
in all who share our lives this day.  
Amen**