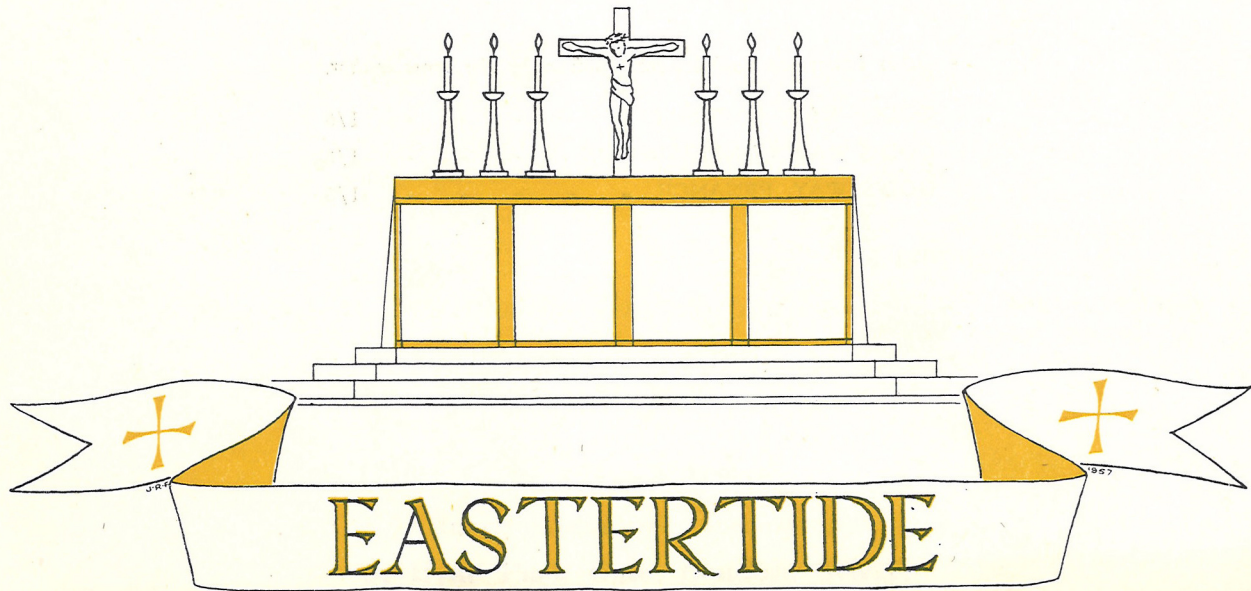


# THROUGH THE YEAR

## WITH THE CHURCH



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## EASTERTIDE

By H. L. Katin, Vicar of St. Bartholomew's, Camberwell.

Illustrated by Hilary Aris.

*A colouring book for children.*

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# **THE RESURRECTION**

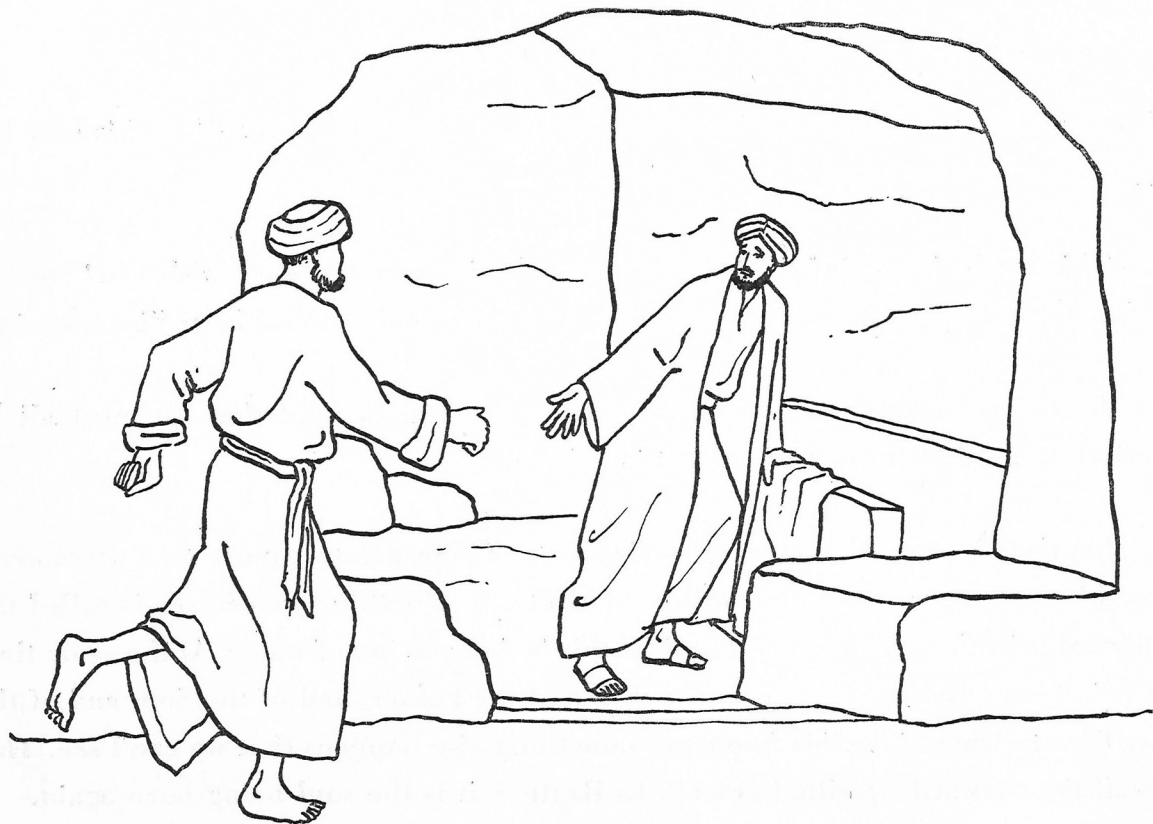
**J**ESUS told his disciples that he would be crucified and that on the third day he would rise again. When his body was taken down from the cross, it was laid in a tomb in front of which was rolled a huge stone. This was because Pontius Pilate was afraid that the disciples would steal the body of Jesus and hide it somewhere else and then go round telling everyone that he had risen from the dead.

But on the third day which was Sunday, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb only to find that the body of Jesus was not there. He had kept his promise and really had risen from the dead.

Mary ran and told Peter and John who raced to the tomb to see for themselves.

Then Jesus appeared to his disciples to prove to them that he was alive and had conquered death. They saw him many times during the next forty days and he taught them many things they had not understood before.

We call this time the Great Forty Days. It is a very joyful time and in church the colour of the vestments and the altar is white.





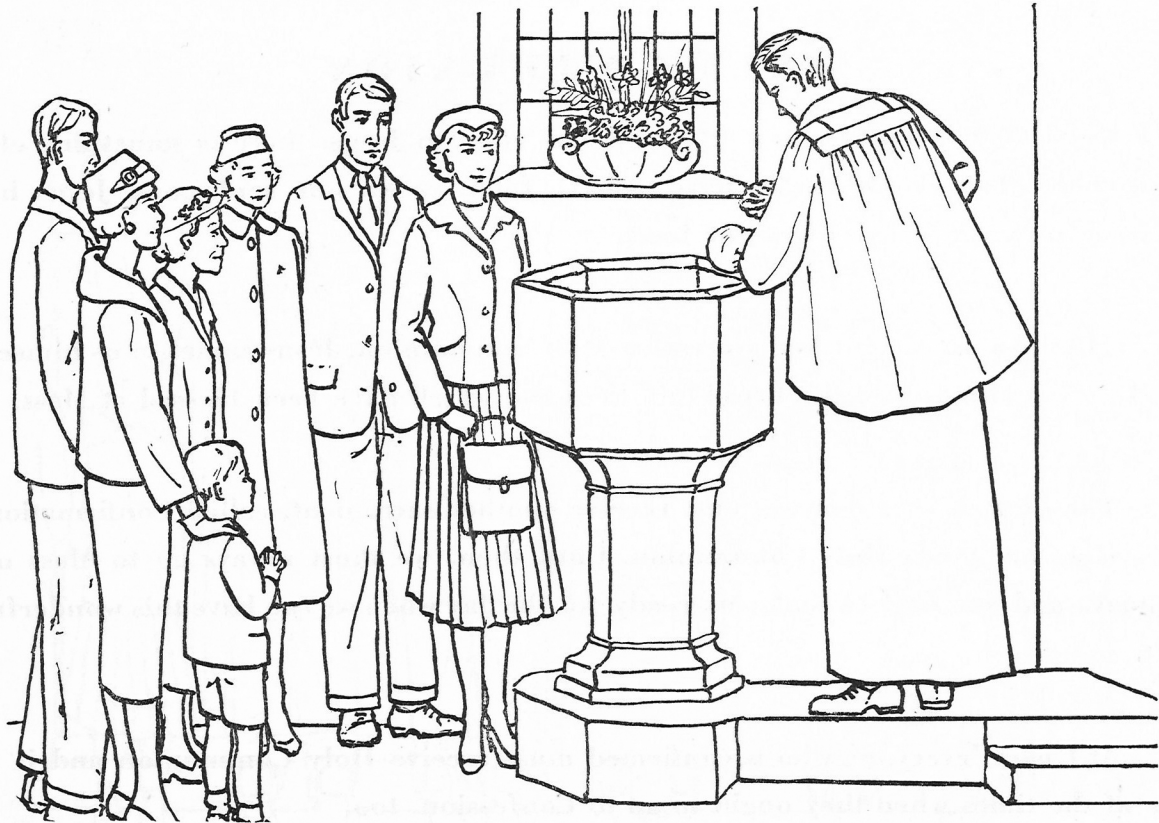
## **NEW LIFE**

**B**ECAUSE Jesus has risen from the dead he has given us new life. This new life comes to us when we are baptised.

This world is so sinful, that everyone who is born starts off with what we call “original sin”. Baptism gets rid of this and we say that we have been “born again”.

Jesus has opened the gate of heaven for us, but he said that we must all be baptised if we want to be sure of getting there.

Baptism is one of the seven sacraments. There are two parts to a sacrament, something we can see and something we can't see. The thing we can see is called the “outward, visible sign” and in Baptism this is the pouring of water. At the same time the priest says “I baptise thee in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.” As this happens, something else happens that we can't see. This we call the “inward, spiritual grace”. In Baptism it is the soul being born again.



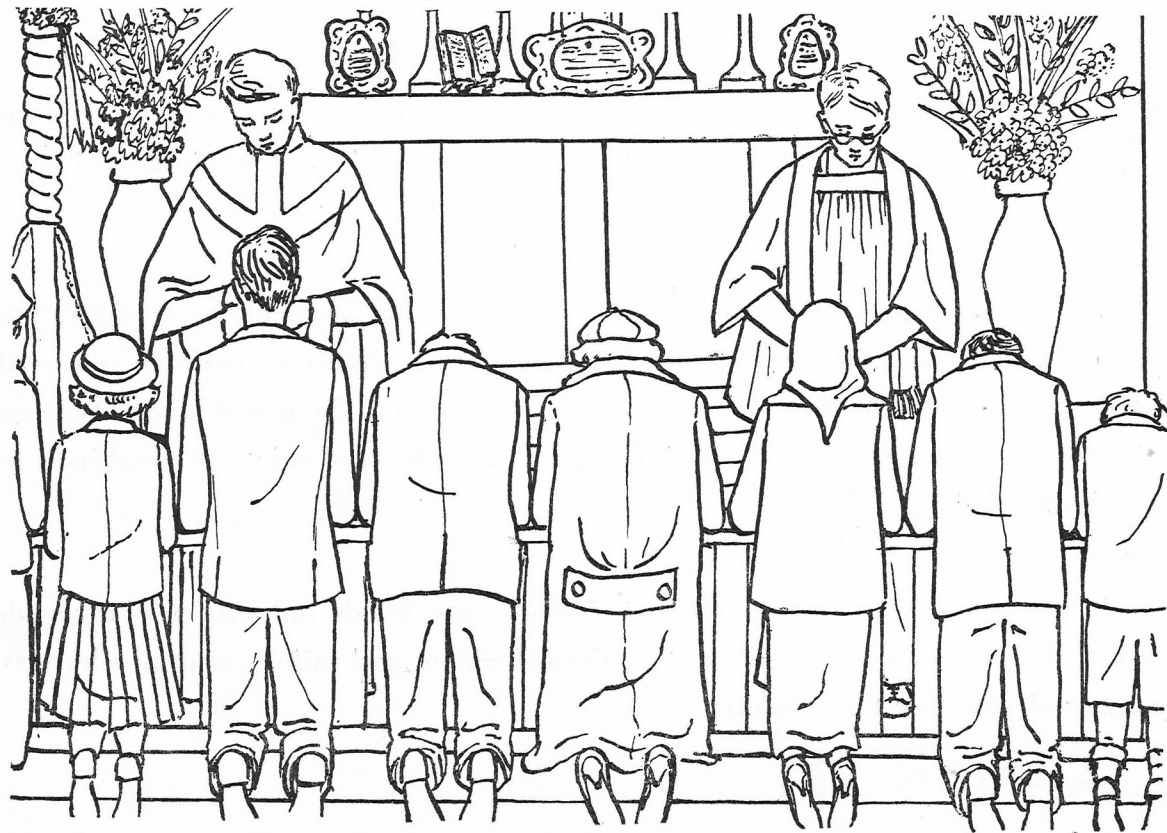
## **HOLY COMMUNION**

**I**F we want to keep this new life, and stay close to Jesus, there is something else we need. Just as our bodies have to have food, so do our souls, and Jesus has given us a very special kind of food.

This is a sacrament and we call it Holy Communion. Jesus comes to us himself in Holy Communion in the bread and the wine which have been blessed at Mass.

The Church says that we must receive another sacrament, called Confirmation, before we are given Holy Communion. Until then, we must always go to Mass on Sundays and ask God to make us ready for the day when we can have this wonderful gift.

At Easter, everyone who is confirmed must receive Holy Communion and it is one of the times when they ought to go to Confession, too.



## **ROGATIONTIDE**

**N**EARLY all churches have a Harvest Festival when we thank God for his gifts of all the things we eat. But we should not forget to ask him first to give us a good harvest.

We do this on the last three days before Ascension Day, on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. They are called Rogation Days. In some country places the people go round the fields in procession singing a litany. The priest blesses the crops and asks God to hear the prayers of the Church and to send rain and sunshine when they are needed.

In places near the sea, the water is blessed, too. We do not only pray for a good harvest of fish, but we remember, too, the fishermen and sailors, and all who travel by sea, and pray for their safety.



## **THE ASCENSION**

**F**ORTY days after the Resurrection, Jesus went back into heaven. He had told his disciples that he would be going away from them and they would not see him again.

He took them up to a mountain and, while they were there, a cloud came and covered Jesus and took him out of sight. As they watched, two men in white appeared and said that in the same way as he had gone, Jesus would one day come back.

Until that time, he is with his Father in heaven. He reigns over us as our King and we must serve him if we want to be with him in heaven when this life is over.

Although he is in heaven and we cannot see him, he does come to us in a very special way. This is in the Mass, when bread and wine are blessed and become his Body and Blood. When we see the priest lift up the Host at the Consecration, we can say "My Lord and my God" because we know he is present with us.





## **THE END OF THE GREAT FORTY DAYS**

**B**ECAUSE Ascension Day is exactly forty days after Easter Sunday, it always comes on a Thursday. But we go to Mass just the same.

When the Gospel is read, we are reminded of Jesus being taken up into heaven. At the same time a server puts out the Paschal Candle. This is a great big candle which was blessed and first lit on Holy Saturday. It will have stood up near the altar all through the Great Forty Days. It represents the risen body of Jesus. After Mass it is put away and we do not see it again until next year.

Although the Great Forty Days are over, Eastertide is not quite finished. It goes on until the Saturday after Whitsun.

