

# RESPONDING TO THE PSALMS – April 2026

*a project of*

*the Spirituality Committee of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales*

We offer the Sunday Responsorial Psalm as a focus for prayer and reflection during the week ahead for yourself or to share with others.

You could note your own thoughts as a possible personal journal.

As we begin our Easter journey it would be good to stop and think what does this season mean to us and how we use we will use these Great Fifty Days as a time of grace.

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Today I would like to invite you to reflect on a surprising aspect of Christ's Resurrection: his humility. If we think back to the Gospel accounts, we realize that the risen Lord does nothing spectacular to impose himself on the faith of his disciples. He does not appear surrounded by hosts of angels, he does not perform spectacular feats, he does not deliver solemn speeches to reveal the secrets of the universe. On the contrary, he approaches discreetly, like any other wayfarer, like a hungry man asking to share some bread (cf. Lk 24:15, 41).

Mary Magdalene mistakes him for a gardener (cf. Jn 20:15). The disciples of Emmaus believe him to be a stranger (cf. Lk 24:18). Peter and the other fishermen think he is just a passer-by (cf. Jn 21:4).

We would have expected special effects, signs of power, overwhelming evidence. But the Lord does not seek this: he prefers the language of proximity, of normality, of sharing a meal.

Brothers and sisters, there is a valuable message in this: the Resurrection is not a theatrical coup; it is a silent transformation that fills every human gesture with meaning. The risen Jesus eats a piece of fish in front of his disciples: this is not a marginal detail, it is confirmation that our body, our history, our relationships are not a shell to be thrown away. They are destined for the fullness of life. Resurrection does not mean becoming evanescent spirits, but entering into a deeper communion with God and with our brothers and sisters, in a humanity transfigured by love.

In the Pasch of Christ, everything can become grace. Even the most ordinary things: eating, working, waiting, taking care of the house, supporting a friend. The Resurrection does not remove life from time and effort, but changes its meaning and "flavour". Every gesture performed in gratitude and communion anticipates the Kingdom of God.

*Pope Leo XIV – Catechesis – 8 October 2025*

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**Sunday 5 April**

**Easter Sunday**

**Sunday 12 April**

**Second Sunday of Easter**

**Sunday 19 April**

**Third Sunday of Easter**

*Thursday 23 April*

*Solemnity of St George*

**Sunday 26 April**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Sunday 5 April 2026

Easter Sunday

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 118(117):1-2. 16-17. 22-23. ~~R~~24

*THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE;  
LET US REJOICE IN IT AND BE GLAD.*

.  
Give praise to the LORD, for he is good;  
his mercy endures for ever.

Let the house of Israel say,  
'His mercy endures for ever.'

*Let us thank God for his goodness to us in the gift of Christ's Resurrection and its power for us  
Let us realise that the Resurrection is the heart of God's merciful love for us*

The LORD's right hand is exalted.  
The LORD's right hand has done mighty deeds.  
I shall not die, I shall live  
and recount the deeds of the LORD.

*Take time to meditate how the Father raised Jesus from the dead by the power of "his right hand"  
Think how the Resurrection is a promise to us of eternal life, the greatest act of God for us*

The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.  
By the LORD has this been done,  
a marvel in our eyes.

*Stop and reflect on the events of Holy Week that led from the Cross to the empty tomb  
Just take time to wonder at the marvellous event that is the Resurrection*

Sunday 12 April 2026

2nd Sunday of Easter [Divine Mercy Sunday]

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 118(117):2-4. 13-15b. 22-24. *R*1

*GIVE PRAISE TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD,  
HIS MERCY ENDURES FOR EVER.*

Let the house of Israel say,  
'His mercy endures for ever.'

Let the house of Aaron say,  
'His mercy endures for ever.'

Let those who fear the LORD say,  
'His mercy endures for ever.'

*Today let us thank for God's mercy to all our family, relatives and friends in the past  
Let us pray that the Lord will show us his mercy now for we respect and revere him*

They pushed me, pushed me hard to knock me down,  
but the LORD was my helper.

The LORD is my strength and my song;  
he was my saviour.

There are shouts of joy and salvation  
in the tents of the righteous.

*Thank God for the times he has been with you when things seemed to be going against you  
Give joyful praise to God for all the good things in your life now.*

The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.

By the LORD has this been done,  
a marvel in our eyes.

This is the day the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice in it and be glad.

*Continue to wonder at the great gift of Christ's resurrection and the life it promises  
Let us thank the Father for joy and gladness we have as his Easter people*

Sunday 19 April 2026

3rd Sunday of Easter

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 16(15):1-2a, 5. 7-8. 9-10. 11. **R**1

*O LORD, YOU WILL SHOW ME THE PATH OF LIFE.*

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

I say to the LORD, 'You are my Lord.'

O LORD, it is you who are my portion and cup;

you yourself who secure my lot.

*Bring to the Lord all the hopes that you have for your future life as a Christian*

*Make an act of faith and trust in the Risen Christ who is with you in these Easter days*

I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel,

who even at night directs my heart.

I keep the LORD before me always;

with him at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

*Thank God for the advice and direction he gives you for your life*

*Remember the Lord at different moments in the day, acknowledge his presence with you*

And so, my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;

even my flesh shall rest in hope.

For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,

nor let your holy one see corruption.

*Make an act of hope in the Risen Christ who is with you especially in these Easter days*

*Pray for all who have died that they will enjoy the life of the resurrection*

You will show me the path of life,

the fullness of joy in your presence,

at your right hand, bliss for ever.

*Ask the Risen Lord to walk with you today and show you how to give life to others*

*Pray that the joy you have now in Easter will be a foretaste of the kingdom of heaven*

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 23(22):1-3a. 3b-4. 5. 6. ~~R~~1

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD; THERE IS NOTHING I SHALL WANT.

The LORD is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me;  
he revives my soul.

*Pray that we, the human race, as stewards of creation, will care for God's green pastures  
Pray that we will also care for and preserve the waterways and oceans of the world*

He guides me along the right path,  
for the sake of his name.  
Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death,  
no evil would I fear, for you are with me.  
Your crook and your staff will give me comfort.

*Pray that you will be open to God's guidance so that you will walk his ways faithfully  
Thank God for the comfort his presence gives you, preserving you from fear*

You have prepared a table before me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing.

*Thank God for the gift of the Eucharist, the body and blood of the Risen Lord  
Thank God for the gifts of the Holy Spirit in Baptism and Confirmation*

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life.  
In the LORD's own house shall I dwell  
for length of days unending.

*Ask the Lord to help you bring the goodness and mercy of the Risen Lord to others  
Give thanks to God for our church buildings which are a foretaste of God's heavenly home*