



ECHO

SPECIAL EASTER EDITION

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
ECUMENICAL CHURCH OF OCCITANIE
www.ourchurch.fr

ALLELUIA ! JESUS IS RISEN HE IS RISEN INDEED, ALLELUIA !

And so, we are finally emerging from the Lent time of preparation, and the dark moments of Holy Week.

Jesus has been deserted by all His companions on Maundy Thursday.

On Good Friday he has suffered a rigged trial before a ruler who was more intent on having a quiet life than on standing up for truth and defending innocence. He has heard a crowd which was egged on by a small group of troublemakers intent on destroying him so that they demanding his death despite him being the one who had been teaching and healing them. He has suffered a slow, terrible and humiliating death as a common criminal. His body is buried and the tomb sealed.

One can only imagine the smug satisfaction of the Pharisees that their evil plans appear to have succeeded. Perhaps they would have returned home after Jesus' lifeless body is laid in the tomb, ready to lead the religious celebrations of the Passover on the following day - the Sabbath. Their problems were over, and now things could get back to how they had always been. Except - how wrong could they have been ?

As night falls on Holy Saturday, we begin to proclaim Jesus' Resurrection as we read the prophecies of the Old Testament and sing the great chant of praise and rejoicing - the Exsultet. A flame of new life is kindled and a candle is prepared to be lit with a new flame to signify Christ coming back into the world.

And then, on Sunday morning, we awake to the sight of the empty tomb, and the joyous

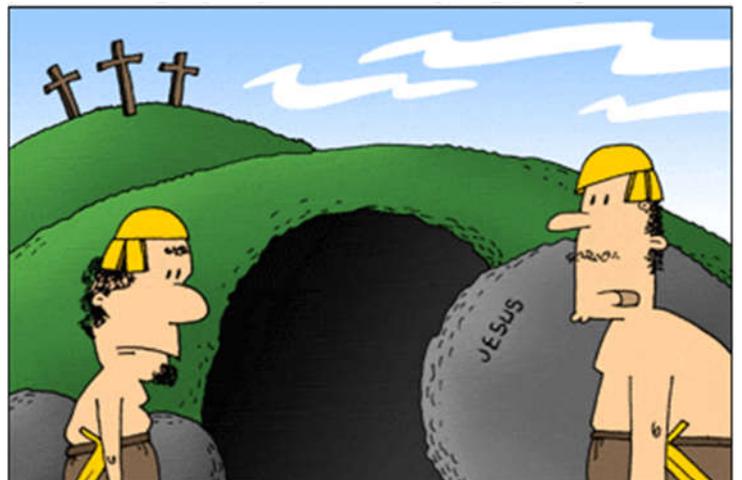
news of Jesus' Resurrection.

During the next few days, here at ECO, we will be sharing these moments in our Holy Week online services and we hope that you might be able to join us to share the journey from darkness and despair to hope and joy.

And, perhaps, to shout out aloud

ALLELUIA !

Wishing you a joyous Easter.
From the whole ECO Team.



OH BOY, MAXIMUS!
WE ARE NEVER GOING TO HEAR THE END
OF THIS !



DON'T FORGET ON GOOD FRIDAY - "BREAKING DAY"



On Good Friday, on the ECO website only (not on Facebook Live), we will be sharing a broadcast of the Riding Lights Theatre Company's powerful drama "Breaking Day" in which we follow the events of the first Good Friday through the experiences of Pontius Pilate, his wife Claudia Procula, and their young servant Hannah. This is a powerful drama which lasts about 50 minutes, and will be at the centre of our Good Friday worship this year.

We will share this play twice on our website, at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm and it will be removed 30 minutes after each performance, so you will have time to watch it if you arrive a little late but, unfortunately, licensing conditions mean that we cannot leave it online beyond each broadcast.

We hope that you will be able to join us for one of the showings.

Dem Bones, dem bones

It has been said that the body of any organisation is made up of four types of bones....

There are the **Wishbones** – who spend their time wishing someone else would do something about the problem under discussion....

There are the **Jawbones** – who spend their time talking about the problem but don't do anything else.

There are the **Knucklebones** – who spend their time criticising everything that everyone has already done or would like to do.

Finally, there are the **Backbones** who quietly come along, get under the load, and carry it!

Which type of bone are you?

THE EASTER TREE



In Germany, Austria and the German-speaking part of Switzerland, there is a custom - so old that its origins have been lost in the mists of time - to decorate the branches of trees and bushes with Easter eggs. This has evolved into bringing branches indoors and decorating them.

The most famous Easter tree is the Saalfelder Ostereierbaum, an apple tree in Thuringia which was annually decorated with more than 10,000 "blown" (i.e. emptied) and decorated eggs all prepared by the Kraft family who owned it.

Sadly, the Krafts retired in 2015 but the eggs will now be used to decorate other Easter trees in the area.

Church Mice

Karl Zorowski

