

MONDAY
12 APRIL
Acts 4:23-31
Psalm 2:1-9
John 3:1-8

TUESDAY
13 APRIL
Acts 4:32-end
Psalm 93
John 3:7-15

WEDNESDAY
14 APRIL
Acts 5:17-26
Psalm 34:1-8
John 3:16-21

THURSDAY
15 APRIL
Acts 5:27-33
Psalm 34:1. 15-end
John 3:31-end

FRIDAY
16 APRIL
Acts 5:34-42
Psalm 27:1-5. 16-17
John 6:1-15

SATURDAY
17 APRIL
Acts 6:1-7
Psalm 33:1-5. 18-19
John 6:16-21

REFLECTION

In this second week after Easter we begin to follow the story of the first Church in the book of Acts and the Gospel of John. Together they help us

engage afresh with the reality of Jesus – who he is, and what he means for us. This week’s readings include one of the most famous of all verses, John 3:16: “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life”. Jesus is the one who has come from heaven to earth, the saviour of the world, the one who feeds the hungry and walks on water, who gave his life for the life of the world.

In the light of the resurrection, Peter prays for boldness to proclaim the good news and is filled with the Holy Spirit – and the Church multiplies. This is a good week to meditate on that single verse, turning it over in our minds and hearts until we are so gripped by its truth that we simply have to tell the world, to speak with Peter’s boldness of the transforming love of God, that all may know that Jesus has risen from the dead.

PRAYER

Eternal God, you raised Jesus from the dead as saviour of the world.
 Give us courage and compassion to share the good news with all your people,
 that the whole world may come to believe and receive your gift of eternal life.



Sculpture St Peter with a key, St Peter’s Cathedral, Vatican

HOLY PLACES

PART III – INNER FARNE

The Farne Islands are situated off the coast of Northumberland, directly east of Bamburgh. Inner Farne, although closest to the mainland, is a wild and windswept place. Now owned by the National Trust, it is home to puffins in the breeding season, and still houses the remains of a seventh-century anchorite cell and the fourteenth-century St Cuthbert’s Chapel.

You can reach Inner Farne by boat from Seahouses, a bustling little town a little south of Bamburgh with its iconic castle. You may be accompanied by nature lovers and those who want to visit the Longstone Lighthouse from where Grace Darling famously rowed to the wrecked Forfarshire in 1838. But there is plenty of time to imagine the experience of St Aidan and St Cuthbert, who both lived on the island.

St Aidan was here when the pagan Mercian King Penda burned Bamburgh. St Cuthbert, who had made his way to Lindisfarne after a vision of angels on the night St Aidan died in 651, went to live on Inner Farne in 676. He stayed until 684 when he was elected Bishop of Lindisfarne, but returned two years later and died on Inner Farne in 687.

St Cuthbert constructed a round building with a straw roof containing an oratory for prayer and a house to live in. He also dug out a well. The chapel that exists today was built in 1370 and probably stands on the same spot as the oratory.

An interest in the wildlife is not out of keeping with the spiritual nature of the island. The Venerable Bede recorded a legendary story of otters who came to warm and dry St Cuthbert’s feet after he had been praying in the sea all night, while Cuthbert is also said to have scolded crows for eating his barley. If you walk to the far end of the island you can find a quiet spot away from others to contemplate Cuthbert’s life and to experience the majesty of God’s creation in this wild place.



LIVE
 the WORD

SUSTAINING YOU
 THROUGH THE WEEK

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