

The aspergillum

The aspergillum refers to the brush or silver/brass ball on the end of the stick which is dipped in the holy water bucket (aspersorium) so that the holy water can be sprinkled over people or over objects. You will see it used at Holy Baptism to sprinkle the congregation or sometimes in the Penitential Rite at Mass as part of something called 'the Asperges', when the Priest sprinkles the people with holy water to remind them of their baptism and that their sins are forgiven. During the Eastertide the aspergillum is used at the beginning of Mass for the ceremony called the 'Vidi Aquam'. The baptismal water blessed at the Easter Vigil is sprinkled over the congregation who are reminded that, in the book of Revelation, the prophet sees water flowing from the right side of the Temple, just as water flowed from the right side of Christ on the cross.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Hearts to heaven and voices raise

The hymn 'Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise' proclaims the Resurrection, looks forward to the harvest of the Second Coming, and asks God's blessing on worshippers. The hymn is particularly fine due to the harvest imagery used to convey a sense of brightness and joy:

*then the golden ears of harvest
will their heads before him wave,
ripened by his glorious sunshine
from the furrows of the grave.*

From St Cyril of Jerusalem

'He conquered death so that all of us might win salvation and be enabled to say, "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"'

Sunday 12th April 2026 Second Sunday of Easter Gospel: John 20: 19 – 31



On the day of his Resurrection, Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene. 'In the evening of that same day,' the Gospel explains, he came and stood among the disciples. Thomas was absent, however, and so Jesus comes again eight days later. The Resurrection appearances of the Lord do not end with Thomas: at the end of today's Gospel we read, 'There are many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book.' With great care, Jesus comes to each group, one after the other, to strengthen their faith. Each receives what they need to believe in Him: for Mary it was to hear her name spoken; for Thomas it was to touch Christ's wounds; for Paul it would be a life-changing encounter on the road. These are acts of mercy; Jesus' actions show us that each one of us is precious in God's eyes. Our response is to follow Him with joy.