

Despite persecution, Kabala from Cameroon is excited to celebrate his first Easter



Kabala is amongst many new Christians worldwide who will experience Easter for the first time this weekend. It will be a time of celebration and exploration, but also risk. Please pray for all believers worldwide who will mark Easter in the shadow of persecution.

"I couldn't stop thinking of who Jesus is," says Kabala* from Far North Cameroon. For about a year, this curiosity grew, until earlier this month he became a Christian – and this weekend he'll celebrate his first Easter!

The decision to follow Jesus is a hugely brave step to make, and one the 27-year-old long battled with given his Islamic upbringing which involved teaching the Quran to young Muslims in Cameroon and Nigeria. "I asked myself: If the Quran tells me Mohammed is dead, and Jesus lives and He has the keys to Paradise, why then do I believe in Mohammed and not Jesus?"

Kabala is excited for Easter, expecting it to be a time of both celebration and exploration. "I don't know much about Easter, but the pastor explained to me that it is that period when Christians understand who Jesus is and how He died and resurrected so that we can all go to paradise," he says.

Kabala is married and has a one-year-old son. He lives with his parents, while his wife lives with her parents in a safer area in the community. His wife is also from a Muslim family, but Kabala said she is willing to support him in his Christian faith. He feels the pressure of persecution and is making plans to move with his wife and son to another region after Easter.

"My prayer for Easter is that Jesus will strengthen my faith in Him, and I will know Him more and more," he says.

PLEASE PRAY

That Kabala will be given the faith to endure persecution, and that his family will come to know Jesus

That all believers from Muslim backgrounds will be given wisdom, courage and safety as they seek to celebrate Easter amidst pressure and persecution

Source: www.opendoorsuk.org

Ringstone in Aveland News Sheet



7 April 2024
Second Sunday of Easter

Readings for this Sunday

Acts 4.32-35
1 John 1.1 - 2.2
John 20.19-31



Psalm 133

The Blessedness of Unity

How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
**It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.**

It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the LORD ordained his blessing,
life for evermore.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and for evermore, Amen

Collect for this Sunday

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins
and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and
wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the
merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity
of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Post Communion Prayer for this Sunday

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children
of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of
sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the
grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Please pray for...

Anthony Andrews , Eben Atkinson, Sheila Bates, Margaret Brumby, Marie Rose Cubacub, Christine Evans, Sue Grainge, Annie Hall, Clive Hall, Marion Heygate, Robert Hitchens, Jane Knight, Gordon Lack, Judy Long, Andrew Luck, Imogen Matthews, Josie Merrett, Michael Merrett, Tom Rae, John Rowntree, Maggie Sharman, Ivan Spencer, Amanda Thomson, Clive Walker, Denise Warcup, Kevin Whitfield, King Charles III, and for any others whom we name in the silence of our hearts.

We give thanks for those on the road to recovery.

We also remember the souls of Joan Curtis, Audrey Gray, Sylvia Waddingham and all the faithful departed. May they rest in peace and rise in glory; and we also pray for those who mourn their loss.

Baptism Anniversaries: Penelope Healy (1 year), Michael Nicholson (2 years)

Funeral anniversaries: Peter Ward (6 months); Robert Wellman (1 year); Celia Margaret Gibson (2 years).

From today's Gospel reading

Jesus said to his disciples, "Receive the Holy Spirit: Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

Reflection:

Our ability to forgive is from Jesus himself, who offered forgiveness even from the cross to his executioners. When he breathed on the disciples he gave us his very Spirit, which is now the reason we can offer forgiveness, even to our enemies – just as he did.

So, we ask ourselves:

- ✠ What person or institution do I need to forgive?
- ✠ Jesus is giving his Spirit today so we can do just that: shall I attempt reconciliation?



Sunday and regular weekday Services in the Group

31 March	11am	Eucharist	Haconby
7 April	11am	Eucharist	Morton
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Kirkby Underwood
14 April	9am	Eucharist	Haconby
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Morton
21 April	11am	Eucharist	Morton
28 April	11am	Eucharist	Kirkby Underwood
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Morton

Wednesday 10 am See below Morton

Wednesday services will usually be a service of Holy Communion . On occasions this will be replaced by a service of Morning Prayer

Do you know anyone who is unable to get to church but who would like to receive Holy Communion? Contact Revd Neil on 01778 219626

Additional Services

7 April 2pm Baptism of Thomas Green Kirkby Underwood

Safeguarding & Contact Information

Safeguarding: We take your welfare and safety very seriously!

Revd Neil (Rector): revdneil@yahoo.com, 01778 219626 or

Janice Hill (Group Safeguarding Officer): janicethreetuns@hotmail.co.uk, 01778 440733 and 07972 211936

Group Administrator and for entries to news sheet (by Tuesday please)

Sue O'Riordan: ringstoneoffice@gmail.com



Can you help?

There is a collection box in St. John the Baptist Church, on the left at the back of the church

Tinned meat	Tinned custard	Tinned rice pudding
Tinned vegetables	Jars of pasta sauce	Packets of plain rice
Squash or fruit juice	Tinned potatoes	Household goods
Shaving gel	Toothbrushes	Toiletries