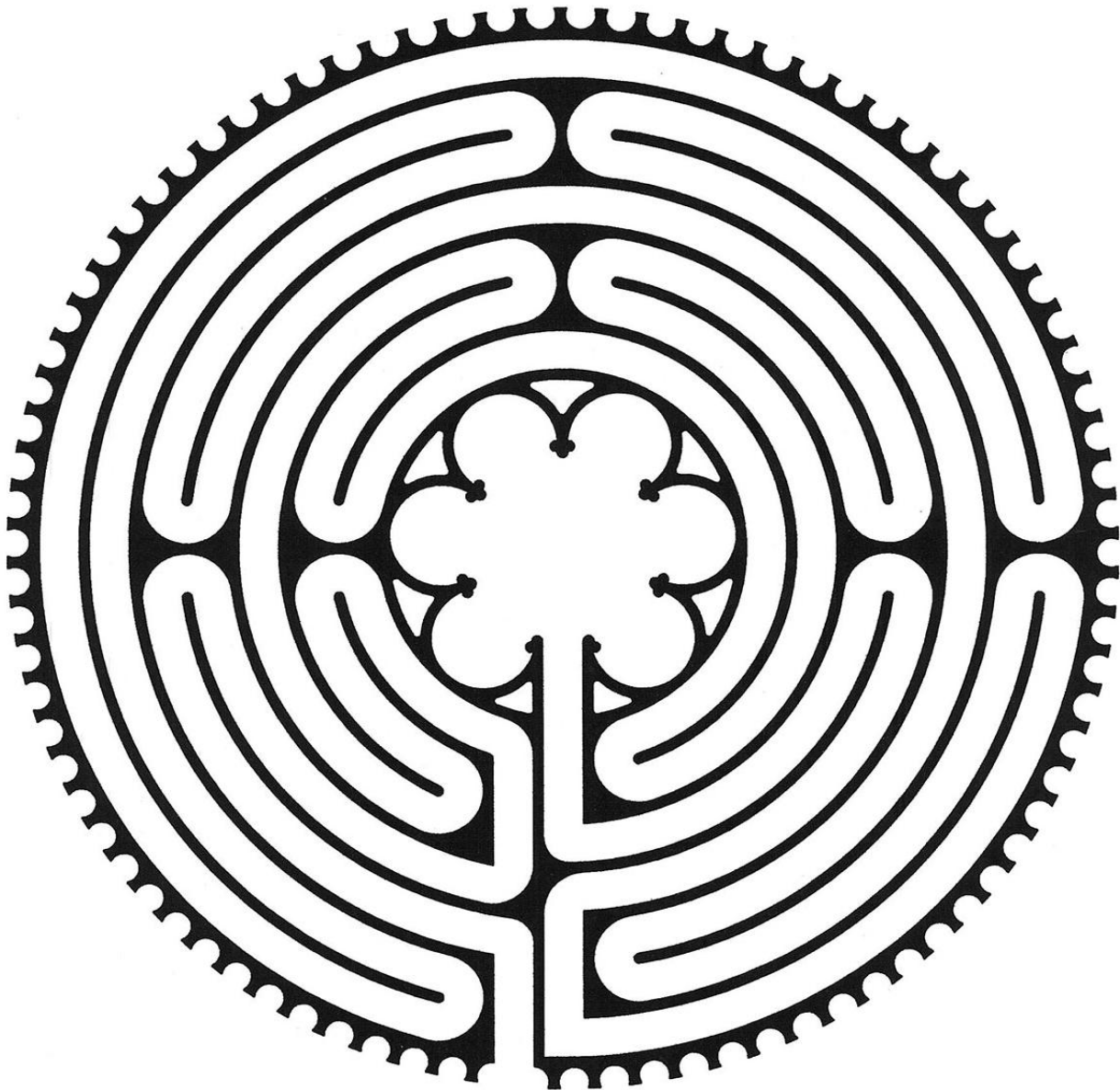


Easter

⁴ While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵ In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷ 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.' " ⁸ Then they remembered his words. *Luke 24:4-8 (NIV)*

Creative idea, finger labyrinth



Use the finger labyrinth to focus your prayers today. As you trace the lines think about Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James and the others with them who found the empty tomb and ran to tell the disciples. What is your first memory of hearing the Good news? Give thanks for all the people who teach and share the Word.

Prayers

We pray for the members of the Clergy who live and work in the Oxford Diocese. We pray that they will support the Mothers' Union as members and co-workers in our projects. We pray that God will deepen the bonds between us so that together we may share the Good News in our communities.

Dear Lord,

We give thanks for all those who have answered your call and generously dedicated themselves to service in your church.

We pray for all our Clergy and ask you to bless them in their work, which they carry out in your name.

May you grant them every good thing that they need to accomplish your will.

Continue to encourage them in their vocation, helping them to live according to your wishes so that they may share your love with everyone they meet.

Enkindle in our parishes a missionary zeal and inspire others to join us in our work so that together we may meet the needs of our local communities and thus promote your Kingdom here on earth.

Amen.

Halleluiah! Jesus is risen! He is risen indeed!

May this declaration resound throughout the world touching the lives of all who hear it.

May it be forever the truth of which we speak and the call that guides our daily lives.

Halleluiah! Jesus is risen! He is risen indeed! Amen

Dear Lord,

We thank you that Easter is for all people who confess with voices, hearts and lives that the tomb is empty because Jesus is risen, that we might know forgiveness, that lives might be reborn and your name glorified now and for eternity.

"The great gift of Easter is hope - Christian hope which makes us have that confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph, and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake."

Basil C Hume, (1923-1999) Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster