

## Tony Thinking Aloud cxlv

When is Easter this year, I can, as it were, hear the question so many times! Folk usually know it is something to do with the Moon but what? Reference to more detailed resources will explain. Easter happens on the Sunday following the Pascal Full Moon (March 21 to April 18) so Easter Sunday can be March 22 and April 25. This year it is April 9<sup>th</sup>.

In many ways it can be looked upon as more important than Christmas ... as we reflected last week. The sequence of the life of Jesus is important to dating. We keep his birth nine months after the Blessed Virgin Mary was told she was to be his mother. When forty days after Christmas are complete we look to the forty days of Lent which lead us to Easter Sunday.

Although dating in a calendar is basically secular it is strongly affected by the observance of the life of Jesus.

It is as if the dates all look to Easter, the climax of the dating ... new life.

Eggs always are one focus of Easter, breaking of the egg compares to Jesus breaking out of the tomb on Easter Sunday morning. Keeping the celebration with special eggs has come in only comparatively recent years especially with Chocolate Eggs. Everyone always had a boiled egg for Easter breakfast, my mother put my name on mine and drew some flowers.

Before Chocolate Eggs, can you remember cardboard ones with chocolates inside? Chocolate Eggs were only seen everywhere after sweet rationing which ended in 1953 after the war! I may have told you they were obviously not available in the war. I had to hand back the cardboard one which my auntie filled from her rations to be used the next year.

Locally there are egg rolling events, hunting for eggs in house or garden, you may know more. (Remember Mary Magdalen looked in the garden before she found the Risen Jesus!).

Easter is well suited for festivities as the spring weather comes. Festivities regardless of any religious aspect. Well suited to celebrate New Life, Hope and that Jesus Christ is Risen today.

At my college as we were all training to be priests, we kept Easter and went home on Easter Monday. On Easter Sunday someone was designated to wake everyone at dawn with 'Jesus Christ is Risen Today'.

There will be celebrations on Battlestead Hill in Tatenhill on Easter Sunday morning very early, at 6:15a.m. Why not join in the hymns and prayers and breakfast afterwards in Tatenhill Village Hall, you will not be alone!