

# THE KEYS



Church of St. Peter the Apostle  
Anglican Catholic Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic States  
[www.dmas-acc.org](http://www.dmas-acc.org)

The Rev. Peter Geromel OHI, Th.M, Rector  
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<https://stpetersacc.org>

## The Rector's Ramble (In and Out of Brambles)

*Rev. starring Tom Hollander*

Actor, Tom Hollander, no doubt, got his "Rev. Creds" as the Reverend Mr. Collins in *Pride & Prejudice* (2005) starring Keira Knightly and Matthew MacFadyen. While not holding a paschal candle, in my opinion, to the incomparable performance of David Bamber as Mr. Collins in the 1995 mini-series starring Jennifer Ehle and Colin Firth, Tom Hollander did an adequate job - as did Keira Knightly, I might add - adequate only. Yet, just 5 years later, he ascends to great clerical-thespian heights, in my opinion, in his performance as "The Reverend Adam Smallbone," a country parson become urban minister in the series *Rev.* (3 Seasons), a series that Hollander co-wrote with James Wood. On Palm Sunday evening, despite all the stress of the coming Holy Week, all of my anxiety lifted in the first minute and a half of Season 1, Episode 1. I'm sorry I hadn't discovered the show years before!



Thoroughly Anglican in culture and nuance, and albeit up-to-date and checking-the-boxes (but not "preachy") per the usual progressive points - yes, the CoFE has homosexual priests; yes, the CoFE has female clergy - great depths of understanding in regards to the complexities of applied theology and pastoral care is harrowed, with humor. The series begins with Adam welcoming folks to the "dynamic and vibrant" inner city church, and then you see the pews, sparsely filled, lacking very much in vibrancy or dynamite-attenders. (It turns out he is contending with a parish left in disarray when the previous priest departed to become Roman Catholic.)

Adam is immediately dealing with the frustrating, all-too-real, reality of nominal Christians attending one's parish only so they can get a discount sending their kids to the church school - "Be on your knees, Avoid the fees"! It ends with the church closing, three seasons later, and yet encouragingly, in the final scene the "ministry team" enters the boarded-up church, looking very much like a sepulcher, for the last time (maybe?) to hold Easter Vigil. And they, finally, baptize the Vicar's child for whose conception and birth he and his wife, and the whole parish, had dreamed for so long.

There is an acknowledgement of the dying English church and dwindling Anglicanism, as "St. Saviour's in the Marshes" is enveloped by a Muslim neighborhood. Yet a hope remains that, while a parish here and there may close, the Church remains strong as ever because of the Risen Christ and His promise to be with the Church until the end of the ages, and with the corresponding directive from Matthew 28, that we are to Baptize "in season and out of season", despite how hopeless the world appears to be and how short-lived our future seems to be.

Is this not a very important part of the Easter Message? Clement of Rome writes, quite early on in the Christian era, saying:

Let us consider that wonderful sign [of the resurrection] which takes place in eastern lands, that is, in Arabia and the countries round about. There is a certain bird which is called a phoenix. This is the only one of its kind, and lives five hundred years. And when the time of its dissolution draws near that it must die, it builds itself a nest of frankincense, and myrrh, and other spices, into which, when the time is fulfilled, it enters and dies. But as the flesh decays a certain kind of worm is

produced, which, being nourished by the juices of the dead bird, brings forth feathers. Then, when it has acquired strength, it takes up that nest in which are the bones of its parent, and bearing these it passes from the land of Arabia into Egypt, to the city called Heliopolis. And, in open day, flying in the sight of all men, it places them on the altar of the sun, and having done this, hastens back to its former abode. The priests then inspect the registers of the dates, and find that it has returned exactly as the five hundredth year was completed.

Here we note a few things: Like the legend of the Phoenix, Jesus was anointed and prepared for his burial, both by the Wise Men at his birth, symbolically, and prior to his death by a penitent sinner, actively washing his feet. Albeit in a new tomb, He is placed in a sepulcher and from there, according to the practice of the time, he was expected to decompose, and his bones would then be “gathered to his fathers” i.e. “the bones of [His] parent[s]”. Jesus was seen by thousands in public events after his resurrection and the Phoenix “in open day, flying in the sight of all men . . . places . . . on the altar of the sun” the bones of its parent, which prophecies by legend the forty days between Jesus’ “mighty resurrection and glorious ascension”.

Beloved, we are more than hoppers in the Resurrection, we set our whole store by it. If it is that easy for Christ to do, to raise the dead, why do we worry about changing demographics, changing generations, and, occasionally, some closed churches? They are easy to reopen, like sealed tombs; they are easy, to resurrect, like dry bones in a dry valley – at least for Christ they are.

#### **News and Information**

Vestry meeting – May 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM, mass preceding at 7 PM.

Holy Ascension – May 26<sup>th</sup>, 12 Noon and 7 PM.

Easter House Blessings available until Pentecost.

MAY, 2022						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
[1] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS  ST. PHILIP & ST. JAMES	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]  12 noon HC	[6]	[7]  5:00 p.m. HC
[8] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS  EASTER III	[9]	[10]	[11]	[12]  12 noon HC	[13]	[14]  5:00 p.m. HC
[15] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS  EASTER IV	[16]	[17]	[18]  7:00 p.m. HC 7:30 p.m. Vestry	[19]  12 noon HC	[20]	[21]  5:00 p.m. HC
[22] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS  ROGATION SUNDAY	[23]	[24]	[25]	[26]  12 noon HC  7:00 p.m. HC HOLY ASCENSION	[27]	[28]  5:00 p.m. HC
[29] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS  SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION	[30]	[31]	<b>LEGEND: HC - Holy Communion; FHE – Festal Holy Eucharist; HE - Holy Eucharist; SS – Sunday School; PG - Prayer Group; EP – Evening Prayer; MP – Morning Prayer; P&amp;HU – Prayers and Holy Unction</b>			

#### IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

If you cannot fulfill your assigned duty because of an urgent reason, PLEASE SECURE A REPLACEMENT.

	May 1	May 8	May 15	May 22	May 29
<b>Altar Guild</b>	V. Williams	B. Higginbotham	M. Slayton	V. Williams	B. Higginbotham
	B. Higginbotham	J. Butterfield	B. Higginbotham	B. Higginbotham	J. Butterfield
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	C. Pappas	V. Williams	E. Paisley	C. deRosset	L. Olver
<b>Ushers</b>	G. Terrell	M. Slayton	G. Terrell	D. Drysdale	M. Slayton
	M. Slayton	P. Pappas	P. Pappas	M. Slayton	G. Terrell
<b>Sat. Epistoler 5 p.m.</b>	A. Butterfield	A. Butterfield	A. Butterfield	A. Butterfield	A. Butterfield
<b>Epistoler 8 a.m.</b>	G. Mauney	D. Drysdale	C. Von Claparede	G. Mauney	D. Drysdale
<b>Epistoler 10 a.m.</b>	P. Williams	G. Terrell	P. Williams	G. Terrell	T. Paisley
<b>Server</b>	P. Williams	T. Paisley	P. Williams	P. Williams	W. Paisley
<b>Crucifer</b>	W. Paisley	W. Paisley	W. Paisley	W. Paisley	P. Williams

2022 Vestry (term end): Dan Drysdale ('23), Lisa Olver ('24), Ted Paisley ('24), Marnie Slayton ('22), Clemens Von Claparede ('22), Phil Williams ('23)