

THE EASTER BANNER

Tulips, hyacinths, and daffodils, our first flowers of the long anticipated spring - each one here with three blossoms, signifying the Trinity.

No threesome for the dandelion, as it takes its lowly place at the very bottom. However, it is still one of God's creations! "A weed is just a plant growing where you don't want it"

The robin represents our first visible living creature of the spring, a return to warmth and a time for celebration! According to animal symbolism, the robin represents joy, hope, clarity, renewal, pleasure, simplicity, happiness, satisfaction, rejuvenation, contentment, bright future, and new beginnings.

The butterfly is a symbol of transformation, because of its process of metamorphosis. From egg to larvae to pupa, the butterfly then emerges in her unfurling glory. Imagine the *whole of your life changing* to such an extreme you are unrecognizable at the end of the transformation.

This unwavering acceptance of her metamorphosis is also symbolic of faith. Here the butterfly beckons us to keep our faith as we undergo transitions in our lives. She understands that our toiling, fretting and anger are useless against the turning tides of nature – she asks us to recognize the same.

The dragonfly brings us change, and the understanding of the deeper meaning of life. Almost 80% of the dragonfly's brain power is dedicated to its sight and the fact that it can see a full 360 degrees. It is an emblem of the uninhibited vision of the mind and the ability to see beyond the limitations of the human self. It also, in a manner of speaking, symbolizes a man/woman's rising from materialism to be able to see beyond the mundane, into the vastness that is really our universe.

The bumblebee, in general, is a universal symbol. It stands for immortality, rebirth, industry, order, purity, soul, chastity, secret wisdom, and community. The Hindus relate the bee to various deities, in Egypt even representing royalty! The Druids saw the bees' social structure as productive, within an efficient community. According to the laws of aerodynamics, this bee shouldn't be able to fly, but it defies that, becoming a symbol for achieving the impossible! It is said to be the messenger of the gods if it comes buzzing into your life, take note. You may be receiving a message from the Spirit. Alternately, you could be getting a message to do a little less and just be still for awhile! When we take the time to just be, we clear our minds to receive divine guidance.

The ladybug found its position on the banner, after a live one appeared in the church library! However, it does have symbolism, in that the name ladybug originated in the middle ages, when it was dedicated to the Virgin Mary and called the "beetle of our lady". This, then, links it to spiritual idealism and religious devotion. The ladybug teaches us how to restore our faith and trust in great spirit. When she appears, she is asking us to get out of our own way and allow great spirit to enter. Her life span is short - just 4 weeks - thus she represents renewal and regeneration.

The inchworm, besides being a means for inserting my initials and the date on this banner, takes its journey one inch at a time. It demonstrates how the universe works with the creative pulse of creation, hurling itself forward in a burst of energy, then gathering up the remaining portion of its body until all of its mass is collected together in a mound. It then repeats the process, pulsing forward, teaching us everything we need to know about managing our daily lives. Take the journey an inch at a time, without worry about the mountain ahead.