

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR EASTER SUNDAY

Approaching the Empty Tomb - Traditionally at this time of year thousands of new Christians are baptised all over the world. A young man baptised recently was asked, "Do you feel different now that you are baptised and a Christian?" "Yes," he replied,



I went from believing nothing to believing everything sort of vaguely. I hope God will make things clearer to me as I continue on this journey."

Easter is a good time to reaffirm our faith. The Resurrection is the culmination of Christ's journey on this earth, and the beginning of our journey in faith. Our journey begins with belief in the Resurrection but approaching the 'Empty Tomb' isn't easy. Who moved the stone, we wonder? Why were the linen wrappings

removed, and why was the cloth that wrapped Jesus' head rolled neatly and placed separately? In our modern-day times of detective stories and forensic science there is an inclination to turn the empty tomb into a crime scene, but the problem with looking at the empty tomb from an investigative point of view is that we're in danger of missing a greater truth, and the amazing implications of a Resurrection that was after all predicted.

If we were to fully embrace the reality of the Easter story we would pour out of church bouncing with a newfound enthusiasm for life. So how do we embrace the reality of a story for which there is no proof? Jesus promised all along that death couldn't contain us, and the empty tomb points to this not necessarily as proof, but as something that was promised. Why therefore, in the context of everything else that Jesus did and said, should this surprise us?

The empty tomb gives our life purpose. Belief in the resurrection means we can live life boldly and well, looking forward to eternal life. The empty tomb gives us a means to deal with pain and suffering, it means that death is not a meaningless end of life, but the door to the fullness of life with the risen Christ.



PARISH PRAYER - *Father, pour out your Spirit upon our parish. Grant us a new vision of your glory, a new faithfulness to your Word, and a new consecration to your service; that your love might grow among us and your Kingdom come. Through Christ our Lord. Amen*

Useful links: Diocesan Safeguarding - <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/safeguarding/>
 Diocesan Website: <http://www.rcdea.org.uk>
 Notre Dame High School, Norwich: <http://www.ndhs.org.uk>
 Daily liturgy website: www.universalis.com

PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART AND ST MARGARET MARY

[Reg. Charity 278742]

Parish Priest: Fr. Brendan Moffatt - email: brendanmoffatt@yahoo.co.uk

Address: The Presbytery, 35 London Road, Dereham NR19 1AS

Telephone: 01362 694066.

Parish website: <http://www.sacredheartdereham.org.uk>

Permanent Deacon: Rev. Martin Sanderson – Tel: 01362 822590

email: dcnmsanderson@hotmail.com

Parish Music Leader: Michael King – email: michaeljwking@gmail.com

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Kathleen Edmunds –

email: kathleenedmunds@yahoo.com

1st APRIL 2018 – EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday Masses [<i>Parish Mass Book</i> ¹ p216; ² p251]	Intentions
Holy Saturday – Vigil Mass ¹	8.00 pm People of the Parish
Easter Sunday – Mass during	9.00 am Private Int.
the day ²	11.00 am Private Int.

Music for Easter Vigil & Sunday Masses - *Setting: Dom Gregory Murray, incl. Gloria & Memorial Acclamation A.*

Entry (9am & 11am): Hymn 267 – Jesus Christ is ris'n today ...

Offertory: Hymn 278 – Now the green blade riseth ...

Communion: *Instrumental Interlude/Sacred silence ...*

Recessional: Hymn 269 – At the Lamb's high feast we sing ...

Confession/Reconciliation: Saturday at 5.30pm - or by request/appointment

Weekday Masses [Octave of Easter - Psalter Week 1]	Intentions
Mon. 10.00 am	Easter Octave Gunter Gormans
Tues. No Mass today	Easter Octave
Weds. 10.00 am	Easter Octave Frank Langham (May)
Thurs. 10.00 am	Easter Octave Neil McCormack
Fri. 10.00 am	Easter Octave Roger Borthwick
Sat. No morning Mass	Easter Octave
6.00 pm	2 nd Sunday of Easter Walter Untermayer

Anniversaries this week: Vera Conway, Iain Walton, Ricci (Frederica) White, Maria Madalena Santana, Stephanie Grange, Roger Borthwick, Edith Graydon-Carter, Harold

The Parish Newsletter (incl. back copies) is available to view on the parish website from Friday onward each week

Chapman, Gordon William Lloyd, Harry Knight and James Juby. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

Hospital Visits – If you or family members are admitted to the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital (NNUH) or Queen Elizabeth II Hospital (QEII), King’s Lynn, and would like a visit from the Roman Catholic Chaplain, please call either St John’s Cathedral, Norwich (01603 624615) for visits to NNUH, or Fr Peter Rollings (01553 772220) for visits to QEII. If you would like to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the sick before going to hospital, please contact Fr. Brendan on 01362 694066.

Sick List - Please pray for: David Peek, Robert Nicol, Shirley Liebenhals, Sarah Chaudri, Anne & Derek Williams, Rita Smith, Eileen Brockleby, Kathleen (Jenny) Rudd, Ellen Flood, Margaret Leggett, Robert Anderson, Carole Whitesides, Janet Yardley, Mary Cawley, Ken Summerford, Patrick McKenna, Anna Thompkins, Andre Kanssen, Joan Wells and Francis Buxton.

Money Matters – The collection last weekend for the maintenance of our parish amounted to £554.08. Thank you very much. The collection during Easter Masses is the traditional Easter Offering to the Parish Priest.

Diary Dates for this week –	
Mon. 2 nd Apr.	Mother Teresa’s Knitting Group – <i>In view of the Easter Bank Holiday, please note our monthly meeting will be held next week, Monday, 9th April at 2.00pm. New members always welcome.</i>
Tues. 3 rd Apr.	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – <i>No meeting this week. Meetings resume Tuesday, 10th April.</i>
Weds. 4 th Apr.	7.30pm SVP Conference meets in Emmaus Room.
Fri. 6 th Apr.	10.30am SVP ‘First Friday’ Coffee Morning. All welcome.
Sat. 7 th Apr.	Saturday Club is on Easter holidays. Meetings will resume on 21 st April. NB. <i>There is no Saturday morning Mass while Saturday Club is on holiday.</i>

Thank You to everyone who has worked so hard to contribute to our celebration of Holy Week and Easter. There are so many things that need to be done to prepare the church and the liturgy and everyone contributes something which helps to make it a special experience. I was delighted that our parishioners were able to claim the front seats at the Cathedral for the Chrism Mass this year and so had a perfect view of the entire proceedings.

Don’t Forget! – Parish Annual Meeting: Sunday, 15th April at 12 noon. Commencing with Midday Prayer, followed by a buffet lunch. Parish groups who have not yet submitted their reports for inclusion on the agenda are please asked to let me have them by next Sunday at the latest.

Season of Easter - Easter isn’t just one day; it’s a ‘season’. The fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost are celebrated in joyful exultation as one feast day, or better as

one “great Sunday”. The gospel readings for the first three Sundays recount the appearances of the risen Christ. The readings about the Good Shepherd are assigned to the Fourth Sunday. On the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Sundays, there are excerpts from the Lord’s discourse and prayer at the last supper.

Urbi et Orbi, Sunday 1st April BBC 1 11.00am - On the sixth Easter of his pontificate, Pope Francis gives his Easter Message and Blessing, Urbi et Orbi, to the city and to the world. Martin Bashir sets the scene.

Pope Francis Prayer Intention for April: An Inclusive Economy - This month, Pope Francis asks us to turn our attention to economics. We are asked in our 'throwaway' society to consider how our financial choices affect the rest of the world. We can see it all too clearly at the moment in our struggle to clean up the world's oceans, and the impact our waste has had on our marine life, beaches and food chain. We have to start looking for an economy that serves the good of all and not simply our own short term insular needs. We are asked to join this month's prayer intention, *"that economics may have the courage to reject any economy of exclusion and know how to open new paths."*



Inviting ALL Young People in Year 8 upwards to the Ignite Festival, May 5th – 6th: Come and experience your faith in a new and dynamic way at the Ignite Festival. The weekend will include powerful talks, passionate prayer, live music, and lots of fun stuff, including sumo suit wrestling! We are particularly pleased to welcome Gabby and Paige from the TV show *Bad Habits, Holy Orders*. Organised by the Diocesan Youth Service. See www.ignitefestival.co.uk for more information.

Celebrate East Anglia: June 2nd & 3rd at Bury St Edmunds – Faith-filled, fun weekend for all ages, combining contemporary Christian music, inspirational speakers, workshops, celebration of Mass, children’s and youth ministry, and much more. Come and celebrate your faith! See www.celebrateconference.org and click on ‘East Anglia’ for more information.



Christ is Risen!