

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



Doubt and Disbelief

The story of ‘Doubting Thomas’ is aimed at all those generations of people who will not see the risen Lord yet are asked to believe. So, are we really being asked to believe in what we cannot see or hear or touch, when even those closest to Jesus had problems in accepting what was happening?

In today’s gospel we see Thomas struggling with a problem that many of us still struggle with today. Thomas desperately wanted to believe in the risen Jesus, but he wasn’t the sort of person to pretend he understood something when he didn’t. He wasn’t the sort of person that could pretend that he didn’t have doubts when he did. There are many of us today who desperately want deeper meaning in our lives. There are those amongst us who have become disillusioned with the Church and wish they could embrace what it once meant. There are many of us who would like to find a deeper faith but have found only stumbling blocks. Like Thomas, we find that the gap between faith and doubt too big a leap.

For those who find belief elusive, there is an uncomfortable beatitude in today’s gospel. “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.” This can feel like a reproach to those of us who harbour doubts, but the important thing to remember is that doubt isn’t the same thing as disbelief. Doubt can be a good thing even. Doubt means that we are still questioning something that we care about. Doubt means that we are still looking for answers, that we are still learning and growing. Doubt is a tool that we can use to carve a mature faith. Belief isn’t something we either have or haven’t got - belief is a process, and the end-product of that process is one’s own spiritual self.



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]

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8th APRIL 2018 - 2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday Masses [Parish Mass Book p255]		Intentions
Saturday,	6.00 pm	Walter Untermayer (Sanderson)
Sunday,	9.00 am	People of the Parish
	11.00 am	Stephen Hawking (Bell)

Music for Sunday Masses - Setting: New People’s Mass (Dom Gregory Murray), incl. Memorial Acclamation A.

Entry: 6pm – Regina Caeli (said). Hymn 286 – This joyful Eastertide ...

Offertory: Hymn 921 – This is my will, my one command ...

Psalm Response: (11am sung) – Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end

Communion: Instrumental Interlude/Sacred silence ...

Recessional: 11am – Regina Caeli (said). Hymn 271 – Battle is o’er ...

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

Weekday Masses [2 nd Week of Easter - Psalter Week 2]		Intentions
Mon.	10.00 am	THE ANNUNCIATION
Tues.	No Mass today	Easter Feria
Weds.	10.00 am	St Stanislaus
Thurs.	10.00 am	Requiem Mass for Frank Langham
Fri.	10.00 am	Easter Feria
Sat.	No morning Mass	Easter Feria
	6.00 pm	3 rd Sunday of Easter
		Joan Imelda Plumb

(Fdn. = Foundation Mass)

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

Anniversaries this week: Patrick Joseph Mullally, Consuelo Murphy, Ted Clark, Tom Brady, Cyril Byrne, Brigid Mary Murphy, Daniel Creamer, Colin Nicholson and Eileen Wells. *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 – Thank you very much for your very generous Easter Offering of £1,567.59, for £155.10 for Holy Land Shrines (Good Friday), £104.65 for the S.V.P. (Maundy Thursday) and £207.10 for Lenten Alms, which will be given through the Diocese to Aid to the Church in Need and Don't Screen Us Out, a Down's Syndrome Charity.

Diary Dates for this week –		
Mon. 9 th Apr.	2.00pm	Mother Teresa’s Knitting Group – monthly meeting in Emmaus Room. New members always welcome.
Tues. 10 th Apr.	7.30pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group, in Emmaus Room
Weds. 11 th Apr.	11.00am	UCM meets, in Emmaus Room.
Sat. 14 th Apr.	Saturday Club is on Easter holidays. Classes resume 21 st April. NB. <i>There is no Saturday morning Mass while Saturday Club is on holiday.</i>	

The Annunciation, 9th April: Saying Yes to Jesus - At the Annunciation, Mary's consent was one of the most important moments in the history of salvation and in the unfolding of the Eucharistic mystery. We call that moment her 'fiat', the first word in a Latin phrase that means "Be it done unto me according to your word." When we say yes to God, we allow his grace to be fruitful. When we say no, we are missing big opportunities to be part God's picture.

Open Parish Meeting: The date set for this has crept up on me far too quickly. I must apologise for not putting out lists for attendance and lunch etc. I propose to move the date to early May. So far nothing has arrived for an agenda and not all of the expected reports are in yet, so perhaps I am not the only one who focussed on Holy Week and Easter rather than our annual meeting. I hope this will be acceptable to all but with so little time between now and the 15th April, I think it best to hold this in May.

Newman Lectures 2018 - The 2018 Newman Lectures begin at UEA on Monday, 16th April at 6.30pm, with a lecture by Professor Stephen Bullivant on the challenges of secularism for the Catholic Church. Parking at UEA is free from 6pm.


CAFOD Match Funding Deadline - It might seem a bit of a distant memory, but it's not too late to donate to CAFOD's Lenten Fast Day Appeal. It's a three-month appeal. Money raised in the three months from Shrove Tuesday 13th February, to Saturday 12th May, will be match funded by the UK Government. Donations raised by 12th May must then reach Romero House by Sunday 1 July at the latest to be matched. The UK Government will match donations up to an overall total of £5 million.

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.

Bitesize – “Every tomorrow has two handles. We can take hold of it by the handle of anxiety, or by the handle of faith.” ~ *Author Unknown*

In Eastertide, we recite REGINA CÆLI in place of the ANGELUS:



Christ is Risen!

Queen of heaven, rejoice, Alleluia.
For he, whom you did merit to bear, Alleluia,
Has risen as he said, Alleluia.
Pray for us to God, Alleluia
Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, Alleluia.
For the Lord has truly risen, Alleluia.

Let us pray:

O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech you, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, his mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.