

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



The Way Forward

For those who find belief elusive, there is an uncomfortable beatitude in today's gospel. "Happy 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 can be a good thing. 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.

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. The good news is that just as Jesus showed Thomas patience so he will be patient with us too. The good news is that just as Jesus gave Thomas a way to forward his faith so too will we be shown a way forward if we want it enough.



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.

PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART AND ST. MARGARET MARY [Registered Charity 278742]

Parish Priest: Fr. Brendan Moffatt – Telephone: 01362 694066

Email: Brendan.Moffatt@rcdea.org.uk

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

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

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

Email: martin.sanderson@rcdea.org.uk

Parish Music Leader: Michael King: Email: michaeljwking@gmail.com

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Kathleen Edmunds:

Email: kathleenedmunds@yahoo.com

11TH APRIL 2021 – 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER – Year B

[2nd Week of Easter, Weekday Year I, Psalter Week 2]

Mass Times for the Week			Intentions
Sat. 10 Apr.	6.00 pm	2 nd Sunday of Easter	Jack Smith (Harris)
Sun. 11 Apr.	9.00 am 11.00 am		Holy Souls (Sillince) The People of the Parish
Mon. 12 Apr.	10.00 am	Easter Feria	Joan & Barry Evans
Tues. 13 Apr.	-	Easter Feria	No Mass today
Weds. 14 Apr.	10.00 am	Easter Feria	UCM Intentions (3/5)
Thurs. 15 Apr.	10.00 am	Easter Feria	Michael Murphy
Fri. 16 Apr.	10.00 am	Easter Feria	Bill Murphy
Sat. 17 Apr.	-	Easter Feria	No morning Mass
Sun. 18 Apr.	6.00 pm	3 rd Sunday of Easter	P. & H. Intentions
	9.00 am 11.00 am		The People of the Parish Catherine Macdonald (Borthwick)

All Celebrations of Mass are live-streamed on YouTube

The Church is open daily until 4:00pm

Anniversaries this week: Tom Brady, Cyril Byrne, Brigid Mary Murphy, Daniel Creamer, Colin Nicholson, Eileen Wells, Christina Duffield, Joan Mary McManus, Enid Whatmore, Bernard Reddington, Edwin Gatt. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

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

MASS LIVE STREAM – Search for **Dereham Catholic Church on YouTube**,

Or use the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCR-qWs-B40VTvbezZ83MxQ/videos?view=2&flow=grid>

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

Hospital Visits: If you or any member of your family is admitted to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital and would like to have a visit from a Catholic Priest, please inform a nurse on the ward and contact will be made through the Chaplaincy. If you are admitted to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in King's Lynn, please contact Fr. Peter Rollings at the Presbytery on 01553 772220. If you would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick before going into hospital, please contact Fr. Brendan either by phone or by email.

Sick & Housebound [with GDPR Permissions] – Please pray for: Jenny Rudd, Carol Whitesides, Shirley Liebenhals, Frances Saville King, Derek Williams, Greta Cummings, Patsy Gray, Brenda Winandy, Allan Michael Howard.

Money Matters: Thank you very much for your Easter Offering which amounted to £1,095.98 and for the Holy Places collection on Good Friday which came to £179.38. You also donated £28.03 to the S.V.P.

For those who would like to make their regular offerings by Standing Order, the information you need is: Account name: **Catholic Church of Dereham**. The Sort Code is: **40-20-08** and the Account number is: **11311115**. If you are a tax payer, please also consider **Gift Aid**. This is a great way for the parish to get additional funds from the tax reclaim benefits scheme; with this scheme you do not need to commit to a fixed amount as it will just be based on your total annual contribution. Let Fr. Brendan know if you would like to sign up to Gift Aid.



Newsletter by Email - Please let Fr. Brendan know if you would like to receive the parish's weekly bulletin by email. We have a GDPR compliant list of names for this purpose.

Thanks: I would like to express my thanks to everyone who helped in the celebration of Holy Week and Easter. There was a real transformation in the look and feel of the church between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Many people contributed to our celebration and let's hope that next year will be closer to normal.

Flower Rota. Jan Duffield is preparing the next rota for Flower Arrangers and if there is anyone male/female who would like to join it, please phone Jan on 693687

Divine Mercy Sunday - This Sunday is popularly known as 'Mercy of God Sunday.' Between 1930 and 1938 Christ appeared to Sister Faustina, a Sister of Mercy in Poland who initiated the Divine Mercy devotion. She was canonized on April 30th, 2000, the Sunday after Easter, the Feast of Divine Mercy. The second Sunday of Easter is also known as 'Low Sunday' or 'Thomas Sunday'.

St. Bernadette Soubirous, 16th April - Millions of people have come to the spring Bernadette uncovered for healing of body and spirit, but she found no relief from ill health there herself. Interestingly Bernadette moved through life, guided only by blind faith in things she did not understand. Blind faith is something we might find uncomfortable in this

day and age, but it's something we are all guided by from time to time. Maybe there are times we have to accept that blind faith is better than blind doubt.

Care for Our Common Home: Trees for Tom - During the COVID-19 pandemic, Captain Sir Tom Moore raised over £38 million for the NHS. Now his family wish to honour his love of nature and the natural world by planting trees in his memory. Captain Sir Tom Moore voiced his concern about what the future holds for his grandchildren. By planting new trees, his legacy will help combat climate change - and bring so many other benefits - around the world. The family has chosen to plant trees in the UK with the Woodland Trust. The Woodland Trust have planted 50 million trees since it began in 1972, and have plans for 50 million more over the next five years. Remember Captain Sir Tom Moore and create a brighter future today. Donate to plant trees at www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/support-us/give/trees-for-tom

Recommended Viewing: 'Beyond the Cross' is a five-part art and culture series that you can watch on YouTube. 'Beyond the Cross' follows the Risen Christ through the artist's eye taking in some of the main encounters of the season of Easter. You can watch the first episode at www.youtube.com/watch?v=hP8NjGApz3Y You can also access this at www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/beyond-the-cross

Bitesize – “I respect faith, but doubt is what gets you an education.” ~Wilson Mizner

Prayer for the Election of a Bishop

O God, eternal shepherd, who govern your flock with unfailing care, grant in your boundless fatherly love a pastor for your Church who will please you by his holiness and to us show watchful care. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

St. Felix, Pray for us.

St. Fursey, Pray for us.

St. Edmund, Pray for us.

All Holy Martyrs and Saints of East Anglia, Pray for us.

