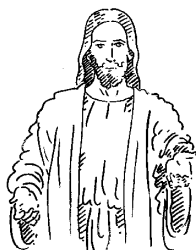


GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



Enlightenment

When we are struggling with our faith, we might be tempted to think that as long as we are ‘good people’ that will suffice. But what sets those who are simply ‘good people’ and ‘Christians’ apart?

The other disciples were really not so very different from Doubting Thomas. When they saw Jesus in their midst, they took some convincing that it really was Jesus and not a ghost that had come to visit them. The gospel outlines three pieces of proof that Jesus uses to convince them that he really has risen from the dead. He shows them the marks on his hands and feet, he invites them to touch and check that he is flesh and blood, and he shares a meal with them. But it is only when Jesus opens their minds to understanding the scriptures that they come to believe in him. By interpreting what has happened, the risen Christ draws the disciples out of their confusion. Amongst some of his famous last words to them, were words of encouragement to go and preach his message and a reminder of prophecies fulfilled and promises made.

Being a Christian today isn’t easy, and simply accepting the Jesus we have grown up with sometimes isn’t enough to sustain us. Perhaps we have given up believing and think that being a good person will be good enough. Understanding the difference between living life simply as a good person, and living life as a Christian comes of believing in the risen Jesus. As Christians we are continually striving to follow Christ’s example. Today, through prayer, scripture debate, and putting faith into action, we continually work for the same enlightenment and understanding that Jesus gave his early disciples. To find that enlightenment we need to look to scripture as the disciples did. We need to look at the authors of the books within the Bible and understand who they were, something of the times they lived in, and who their audience was. There are commentaries to read and videos to watch, and of course, the Bible itself. We don’t need to be great scholars. The original disciples weren’t. All we need is the desire for enlightenment.



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]

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

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Kathleen Edmunds:

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18TH APRIL 2021 – 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER – Year B

[3rd Week of Easter, Weekday Year I, Psalter Week 3]

Mass Times for the Week			Intentions
Sat. 17 Apr.	6.00 pm	3 rd Sunday of Easter	P. & H. Ints.
Sun. 18 Apr.	9.00 am 11.00 am		The People of the Parish Catherine Macdonald (Borthwick)
Mon. 19 Apr.	10.00 am	Easter Feria	Ann Hannon
Tues. 20 Apr.	-	Easter Feria	No Mass today
Weds. 21 Apr.	10.00 am 2.30 pm	Easter Feria Funeral Service for Mary Godin	Bridget & William Murphy
Thurs. 22 Apr.	10.00 am	Easter Feria	Rosemary Oakes (Perkins)
Fri. 23 Apr.	10.00 am	ST GEORGE, Patron of England	Holy Souls (Sillince)
Sat. 24 Apr.	-	Easter Feria	No morning Mass
Sun. 25 Apr.	6.00 pm 9.00 am 11.00 am	4 th Sunday of Easter	Anna Easton The People of the Parish Prince Philip

*All Celebrations of Mass are live-streamed on YouTube
The Church is open daily until 6:00pm*

Anniversaries this week: Margaret Warner, Frederick Hetherington, Tony Lannon, Pamela Clark, Thomas Nally, William Robertson, William Gibbons, Howard Leslie, John Woodhouse. *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: Offertory receipts by Standing Order for March 2021 totalled £1,379.00. Thank you.

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.

Inviting all Young People aged 13+ to the Ignite Festival Online – Join members of the Ignite Team for music, inspiring talks, workshops and prayer. **Saturday, 1st & Sunday, 2nd May, 7:00-8:30 pm**. For more information visit www.ignitefestival.co.uk

Thank you from CAFOD - Thank you for your generous donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day during Lent. We featured Marian and her son Svondo in Zimbabwe in Lent 2018. The community vegetable garden that your donations helped provide is growing well and during the pandemic the family has survived on the vegetables. Your support has also helped to provide soap and handwashing stations in the garden and in family homes. This is just one of many long-term development projects that CAFOD has funded with the money from that Fast Day. Thank you for your steadfast support.

Holy Family Icon – The Icon of the Holy Family which has been with us for the past week has continued on its journey around the Diocese. It is now over in Poringland. Copies of the icon are still available to take away from the church.

Church Opening Times - The Church will remain open till 6.00 p.m. each day from now on.

Saint George, 23rd April - Okay, it's highly unlikely that St George ever killed a dragon, or for that matter that he ever arrived on the shores of England. Perhaps we could use the feast day as a 'prompt' to slay our own dragons whatever they might be laziness, greed, the need to gossip or put people down. Happy St George's Day!

Care for Our Common Home: Earth Day, 22nd April 2021 - Together, we can prevent the coming disasters of climate change and environmental destruction. Together, we can restore our Earth. On this year's Earth Day the hope is to see a billion 'Acts of Green' across the planet. From students in classrooms to organisers in their communities to officials in government, there are ways for anyone of any background to make a difference. Start small and go big — or start big and stay big. Either way, create a green action on this day.

Give Thanks for Your Vaccination - As more of our family, friends, and neighbours receive their COVID vaccinations, we rejoice and are glad that our loved ones are protected. We give thanks for all the NHS staff and key workers who continue to save lives across the UK. For the poorest and most vulnerable communities across the world, there is little hope of a vaccine rollout. These people already face a lack of water, food, and healthcare. Our aid agencies are already on the ground, helping keep people safe from coronavirus with practical support – but with your gift of thanks they can do more. *Donate online at CAFOD, Trocaire, SCIAF and Christian Aid.*

Recommended Reading: Brilliant! 24 Catholic Scientists, Mathematicians, and Supersmart People by David Michael Warren - In an effort to help children learn about the relationship between faith and science, the Daughters of St. Paul, a premiere publisher of Catholic children's books for over seventy years through Pauline Books & Media, have partnered with the Word on Fire Institute to present an exciting new book for children: 'Brilliant! 25 Catholic Scientists, Mathematicians, and Supersmart People'. The book introduces children to many of the Catholics who have been behind ground-breaking discoveries in science and math for centuries. Children will embark on an adventure through history where they'll meet faith-filled pioneers in every field from anatomy to astrophysics. They'll walk in the footsteps of these supersmart Catholics who changed the world and learn how brilliant they can be when they unite faith and science! *Order online at www.paulineuk.org/browse/item/Brilliant-24-Catholic-Scientists-Mathematicians-and-Supersmart-People (ISBN:9780819812483)*

Bitesize – “God understands our prayers even when we can't find the words to say them.”
Author Unknown

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.