

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



Famous Last Words

When we are struggling with our faith, we might be tempted to think that as long as we are 'good people' that will suffice. So what sets '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 word 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. Understanding the difference between living life simply as a good person, and living life as a Christian comes of believing in the risen Jesus. Very often a good person is someone who simply avoids doing anything bad. 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.

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

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19TH APRIL 2015 - 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Weekend Masses – Page 258 of Parish Mass Book

Saturday	6.00 pm	People of the Parish	<i>(Regina Coeli)</i>
Sunday	9.00 am	Patrick Tierney	
	11.00 am	Roger Borthwick	<i>(Regina Coeli)</i>

Confession/Reconciliation - Saturday at 5.30 - 5.55 pm

Weekday Services

[Morning Prayer – Psalter Week 3]

Mon.	10.00 am	Holy Souls - Easter Feria
Tues.	No Mass Today	- Easter Feria
	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – in Emmaus Room
Weds.	No Mass Today	- Easter Feria
Thurs.	10.00 am	Rosemary Oakes – Solemnity of St. George
Fri.	10.00 am	Catherine Macdonald - Easter Feria
Sat.	10.30 am	Holy Souls - St. Mark
	6.00 pm	Holy Souls - 4 th Sunday of Easter – World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Anniversaries this week: William Robertson, William Gibbons, Howard Leslie, John Woodhouse and Theo Sandars. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

Money Matters (*O yes, it does!*) – The collection last weekend was £473.53. Thank you very much. There will be a retiring collection next weekend for The Priests' Training Fund.

Ministry to Priests Programme takes place at Clare Priory this week and I will be attending as usual, hence no Mass on Tuesday or Wednesday.

Hospital Visits – If you or family members are admitted to the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital and would like a visit from the Roman Catholic Chaplain, please call St John's Cathedral, Norwich (01603 624615). If you would like to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the sick before going to hospital, please contact Fr. Brendan on 01362 694066.

Saint George - 23rd April - Okay, it's highly unlikely that St George ever killed a dragon, or for that matter that he ever came to 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!

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) - A parishioner writes: "ACN is sponsoring a petition to try and get Asia Bibi's death sentence overturned. Asia Bibi, as I am sure people are aware, is a high profile victim of Pakistan's notorious blasphemy laws. There is an opportunity for people to sign the petition and by making a small contribution promote the petition to others. For more information follow the link: <http://www.change.org/p/david-cameron-foreign-secretary-philip-hammond-and-the-government-of-pakistan-overturn-asia-bibi-s-death-sentence-saveasiabibi>

A letter to the Parish – "Around two years ago I decided to make Dereham my home, and this was a providential decision in that it allowed me to become part of this parish community. That has been a great gift to me, because I wasn't moving to Norfolk simply because I liked it here, but also because I felt called to discern a vocation to the priesthood within the Diocese of East Anglia. And you, the people of the parish, have helped me tremendously during this time, whether you know it or not.

A few weeks ago I met with Bishop Alan for the final stage of a year-long process of application, and praise be to God, and despite my mature years (!) I have been accepted for seminary and will be beginning studies in Rome in September. More importantly, I was only one of five men accepted for the diocese, three of

us to enter seminary this year and another two to begin in 2016.

Not every seminarian completes the years of formation required, and I am aware that I am still discerning God's will, just as the Church will be discerning whether I am capable of serving in this way. I believe that I have come this far because of the prayers offered by people here and elsewhere for priestly vocations, and I know that to progress I will still have to rely on the prayers of other people as much as upon hard work and my own prayer life. Ultimately the future is in God's hands, and every good thing is the result of His grace; but I want to thank the parish for being such a welcoming community, and for being a place in which my desire to serve within the diocese was strengthened and nurtured through the example of other people and through your faith in action. Although I will be leaving in a few months' time, Dereham remains my home parish, and I hope to maintain that relationship in the years to come.

Please accept my deepest gratitude for your help and your kindness; and please pray for the seminarians of this diocese, that they may become priests and deacons who can minister to you and with you in the future.

Mike Brookes"

Bite Size

"I would rather have a mind opened by wonder than one closed by belief.."

Gerry Spence

In Eastertide, we sing REGINA COELI in place of ANGELUS :

Joy to thee, O Queen of Heaven, Alleluia!

He whom thou wast meet to bear, Alleluia!

As he promised, hath arisen, Alleluia!

Pour for us to Him thy prayer, Alleluia!

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, Alleluia!

R. For the Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Let us pray: O God, who by the Resurrection of thy Son,, Our Lord Jesus Christ, hast vouchsafed to bring joy to the whole world, grant, we beseech thee, that aided by the prayers of his Mother, the Virgin Mary, we too may come to the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.