

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER



Finding Faith

What would it be like to have an unerring and unshakeable faith? What would it be like to have a faith driven not by proof but by an inner voice? Most likely it would be life changing. When we truly believe something in our hearts, we begin to act it out in our lives. An unerring faith would enable us to enjoy peace in the darkest corners of our lives, but is there a real danger that our thirst for that life changing

faith could lead us to ‘leave our brains at the church door’?

Faith and doubt are the flipside of the same coin. In our hurry for faith we can quietly bury any doubts leaving them to fester. On the other hand, we can give so much weight to our doubts that faith eludes us altogether. Doubt isn’t necessarily a bad thing, after all, the disciples needed signs, and Thomas in particular needed concrete evidence. Doubt can be a good thing even, if it leads us to answer the questions that will eventually help us to develop a mature faith. Doubt becomes a bad thing when it builds an insurmountable barrier. Thomas believed that it was foolish to believe something without proof, but if we are so afraid of being foolish or fear to believe without scientific evidence, our doubts will never lead us to ask the right questions. Our doubts will only spur us to pick holes.

So how can we use doubt as a positive tool rather than a negative force? Perhaps there’s been a time when you’ve followed a court case where nearly all the evidence has been circumstantial. The jury have the uncomfortable task of reaching a certain belief without all the evidence they would like. Significantly, barristers don’t confront jurors with the hardest parts of the case first. Barristers begin by building a picture based on certainties. Only when the case seems overwhelmingly watertight do they introduce points that are more circumstantial. Perhaps this is the way to approach our religious doubts.

Bitesize - “I would rather have a mind opened by wonder than one closed by belief.”
~ Gerry Spence



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
[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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19TH APRIL 2020 – 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER – Year C

THE CHURCH REMAINS CLOSED AT THIS TIME

Mass Times for the coming week		
2 nd Week of Easter, Weekday Year II, Psalter Week 2		
<i>Although celebrated without a congregation, the times of Mass are as follows:</i>		
Sunday, 19 th Apr	11:00 am	2 nd Sunday of Easter
Monday, 20 th Apr	12:00 Noon	Easter Feria
Tuesday, 21 st Apr	12:00 Noon	Easter Feria
Wednesday, 22 nd Apr	12:00 Noon	Easter Feria
Thursday, 23 rd Apr	12:00 Noon	St George, Patron of England
Friday, 24 th Apr	12:00 Noon	Easter Feria
Saturday, 25 th Apr	12:00 Noon	St Mark
Sunday, 26 th Apr	11:00 am	3 rd Sunday of Easter

Anniversaries this week: Pamela Clark, Thomas Nally, William Robertson, William Gibbons, Howard Leslie, John Woodhouse, Theo Sandars and Peter Gormans. *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, King’s Lynn (QEII), 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 call the NNUH Hospital Chaplaincy direct on 01603 287470 for people needing urgent spiritual attention, or for visits to QEII Hospital, call Fr. Peter Rollings on 01553 772220. If you would like to receive the Sacrament or Anointing of the sick before going to hospital, please contact Fr. Brendan on 01362 694066.

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

Sick & Housebound [with GDPR Permissions] – **Please pray for:** Janet Yardley, Jenny Rudd, Carol Whitesides, Shirley Liebenhals, Frances Saville King, Una McWeeny, Derek Williams, Teresa Kendall, Greta Cummings.

Money Matters: Thank you to all of you who have set up standing orders for your contributions to our parish; to those of you who have submitted cheques and envelopes to the Presbytery. Thank you also to those of you who have sent in your Easter Offering. I will keep this aside until the weekend designated by the diocese for the Easter Offering.

Diary Dates for this week – All parish group meetings are currently suspended while the church remains closed at this time.

The Sacred Triduum at Sacred Heart 2020: Well it was the same, but different to coin a phrase. Everything took place at the scheduled times. Since lockdown started, I have been celebrating Mass facing the tabernacle i.e. from the other side of the altar. I do it because I don't have to look down an empty church. I know where you all sit and the size and style of our church makes communication so easy but when you are not there it is so bare. Thing I noticed first of all is that this is how I remembered Mass when I was an altar server and it was all in Latin. However, I celebrate Mass in English.

Maundy Thursday was straightforward. I sang the Gregory Murray Mass setting and managed a bit of multi-tasking by ringing a bell during the Gloria. I had a dimly lit church. Lights on in the Sanctuary only.

Good Friday was sombre, a bit more than usual because of the circumstances and the extra prayer in the General Intercessions. Here it is for you to recite yourself at home:

“For the afflicted in time of pandemic. Let us pray for all those who suffer the consequences of the current pandemic, that God the Father may grant health to the sick, strength to those who care for them, comfort to families and salvation to all the victims who have died. *(Pray in silence)*

“Almighty ever-living God, only support of our human weakness, look with compassion upon the sorrowful condition of your children who suffer because of this pandemic; relieve the pain of the sick, give strength to those who care for them, welcome into your peace those who have died and, throughout this time of tribulation, grant that we may all find comfort in your merciful love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen This pray was prayed in every Catholic parish church and Cathedral throughout the world on Good Friday in every language on the earth.”

Holy Saturday: The new Paschal Candle was delivered on Holy Saturday Morning! I lit a candle on the votive stand and blessed it as the Paschal Fire. I prepared the Paschal Candle and blessed it in the usual way, put incense in a incense bowl and recited the Exultet. I sang the Easter Alleluia and the usual parts of the Mass. The Paschal fire remains burning in the sanctuary lamp as usual. It was all the best that I could manage without you, the people of God, being present. Next Year All Together Again! He is Risen. He is Risen Indeed!

Day of Prayer for Dereham & Surrounding Area – Sunday, 26th April – Dereham Churches are asked to please pray for the listed topics throughout the day. It would be really good too to have some feedback as to the number of people participating in this day so please let me know if you take part.

1. General prayer for our town and surrounding villages
2. Pray for those struggling financially, especially those we know, and for the food bank that the supplies keep coming in to meet the needs of those who need help.
3. Pray for those on the front line, bin men shop assistants, doctors, nurses, care assistants and others who you may think of.
4. Pray for those who cannot look after themselves, those in care homes and hospitals.
5. Pray for the local businesses especially for those who have had to close and have had to furlough staff. Pray that they may come through this time safely and that they will be able to open their business as soon as possible.
6. Pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ that their faith might grow and not be shaken.
7. Pray for those who as yet have not got a personal faith that they may seek and find the One who never changes and Whose love is free, limitless and unconditional.

Online Courses at Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology – The following courses are available:

1. **Creation: God, the planet and us, Thursday afternoons course, 23rd April–7th May 2020. Course leader: Dr Férdia Stone-Davis.** To apply, please contact our administrator, by email (mbitadm@hermes.cam.ac.uk) or by phone (01223741039). £160 for the course. The course will be via Zoom, the link for the course and course materials will be sent to participants following registration and payment. Please register by 21st April 2020. The course will draw on approaches within ecotheology/environmental theology, intersectional theology, and animal/creatively theology. Usually our Thursday afternoon courses are a 'women only' space, however, in the current situation we are opening this course up to everyone.
2. **Study Day on Children's Spirituality led by Sue Price. 25th April 10.30 - 3.00 Cost: £15.** To register please email mbitadm@hermes.cam.ac.uk by 23rd April. Upon registration and payment, details for joining the zoom meeting and course materials will be sent out. Join the CCRS students for this interesting study day considering different aspects of children's spirituality.

Live Streaming from the National Shrine of Our Lady, Walsingham - In addition to the regular programme there will be the following:

- **An Eight-Day Retreat:** Monsignor John Armitage will lead an Eight Day Retreat. This will start after Compline at 8pm on Sunday 19th April and finish on Sunday 26th April. Details of the retreat programme are given on the Shrine website: www.walsingham.org.uk
- **Catechesis** - The Shrine is very grateful to Father Stephen Wang for allowing us to use his Sycamore Program. We shall be showing the 20 half hour videos, starting on Monday 27th April. They will be shown at 10.30am and 4.00pm each day.