

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



**Finding Faith** - Poor old Thomas! Condemned to go down in history as 'Doubting Thomas', for demanding proof of the risen Jesus. Yet how many of us would admit to a sneaking sympathy for Thomas. How many of us would have done exactly the same thing in his shoes? In our defence we come to the story from a slightly different angle to that of Thomas's; we come with a twenty first century agenda. We have been brought up in a culture where science rules the day and physical proof is all important. We live in a society where belief in the spiritual is viewed as naive; eccentric even. Yet we are expected to believe.

The most important thing to notice is that Jesus doesn't condemn Thomas for not believing. He simply offers himself as proof. He helps Thomas to believe. Perhaps Jesus does not rebuke Thomas because he knows how much Thomas loves him, and how badly he wants to believe. Doubt might feel like a very negative emotion, but in actual fact, doubt is a sign that we are struggling to find answers and that has to be better than apathy or outright disbelief. Very often doubt is a prelude to firm faith. In fact, a faith besieged by doubt but based in a deep train of thought can be ultimately better than a faith built on little or no thought whatsoever.

In our struggle to find faith we should first take heed of today's story and acknowledge that doubt is 'normal' and not necessarily a bad thing. Next, we should acknowledge that the faith others have isn't just some warm and fuzzy feeling, but a conviction and a commitment. It's all too easy when we cannot determine a faith of our own to decry the faith of others as delusion, but this is to simply dismiss out of hand the thinking of centuries of intelligent and gifted men and women. "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Jesus applauds those who have arrived at their faith, but for those of us who are still struggling we are promised the Holy Spirit to point us in the direction of a well-founded and enduring faith.

**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](http://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](mailto:michaeljwking@gmail.com)

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### 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019 – 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER – Year C

[2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Easter, Weekday Year I, Psalter Week 2]

Mass Times for the Week			Intentions
Sat. 27 <sup>th</sup> Apr. Sun. 28 <sup>th</sup> Apr.	6.00 pm 9.00 am 11.00 am	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter [Parish Mass Book p262]	Tim Salter ( <i>fdn</i> ) Rose Bere ( <i>fdn</i> ) The People of the Parish
Mon. 29 <sup>th</sup> Apr.	10.00 am	St Catherine of Siena (Patron of Europe)	Priest's Int.
Tues. 30 <sup>th</sup> Apr.	-	St George (Patron of England)	<b>No Mass today – PP's day off</b>
Weds. 1 <sup>st</sup> May	10.00 am	Easter Feria	Luz Sudaria
Thurs. 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	10.00 am	St. Athanasius	Priest's Int.
Fri. 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	10.00 am	SS Philip & James. Feast	Priest's Int.
Sat. 4 <sup>th</sup> May	10.30 am	The English Martyrs. Feast	Priest's Int.
Sat. 4 <sup>th</sup> May Sun. 5 <sup>th</sup> May	6.00 pm 9.00 am 11.00 am	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter	Juste Masiulioniee The People of the Parish Maria Alexandra Coita Pita

**Music for 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter** – *Setting*: New People's Mass (incl. Memorial Acclam. B)

**Entry**: 6pm – Regina Coeli (said); Hymn 267 – Jesus Christ is ris'n today, alleluia!

**Psalm**: (said) *R.*: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

**Offertory**: Hymn 269 – At the Lamb's high feast we sing.

**Recessional**: 11am – Regina Coeli (said); Hymn 283 – The day of resurrection!

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

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

**Anniversaries this week:** Timothy Salter, Eddie Wilde, Roger Gerald Clancy, James Tinney, Mary Gatt, Sarah Courtney, Irene Barnes, David Horsburgh and Thomas Delahunt. *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.

**Sick & Housebound [with GDPR Permissions] – Please pray for:** David Peek, Janet Yardley, Jenny Rudd, Sarah Chaudri, Rita Smith, Carol Whitesides, Catherine (Kay) Garrard, Robert Nicol, Eileen Brocklesby, Neville Hibberd, Shirley Liebenhals and Brenda May.

**Money Matters:** Thank you for your very generous Easter Offering of £1,578.42. I am very grateful for your generosity. Thank you also for the Lenten Alms collection which came to £159.44; for the SVP collection of Maundy Thursday which was £168.72, and the collection for the Holy Land Shrines which amounted to £184.85.

Diary Dates for this week -		
Tues. 30 <sup>th</sup> Apr.	7.30pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group - Emmaus Room
Weds. 1 <sup>st</sup> May	7.30pm	SVP Conference meeting – Emmaus Room
Thurs. 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	6.30pm	Music selection & practice – Presbytery & Church. All volunteers welcome to sing or play.
Thurs. 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	7.30pm	Fabric Committee meeting – Emmaus Room
Fri. 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	10.30am	SVP 'First Friday' Coffee Morning. After Mass. All welcome.
Fri. 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	7.15-8.15pm	Altar Servers meeting – Emmaus Room
Sat. 4 <sup>th</sup> May	11.00am	Saturday Club - Emmaus Room

**Easter Thanks** – Thank you to everyone who contributed to the celebration of the Triduum and Easter. It is too risky to attempt to write a list for fear of leaving someone off it and causing offence. Holy Week and Easter requires a massive effort by lots of people to help create the feeling, the anticipation of Maundy Thursday, the sorrow of Good Friday and the joy of Easter. Thank you to everyone.

**Parish Open Meeting, Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May** – Please submit items for the agenda to me at the Presbytery. We do not have a space for Any Other Business. Also, I would be grateful if the groups in the parish could send in their reports. **Last date for receipt of items, please, is 5<sup>th</sup> May.**

**Saturday 11th May - Meet the Sisters at their Spring Cream Tea from 2.30 - 4.30pm:** The sisters from the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham invite you to join them for a cream

tea at their convent, House of the Divine Will, behind the playground on Neatherd Moor. All welcome. Please call 01328 801018 or 07931 795769 if you need further information.

**The Newman Lectures at the Cathedral Narthex: Thursday evenings from 23<sup>rd</sup> May to 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019.** The subject this year is 'Mary'. Please see the poster on the noticeboard and the leaflets on the table. Talks commence at 6.30pm and refreshments will be available.

**Dereham Town Pastors' Management Committee** invite you to attend their Annual Meeting on **Thursday, 9th May at 7pm at the church hall, Dereham Baptist Church, Norwich Street, Dereham NR19 1BX.** Following the formalities of the AGM (about 45 minutes), refreshments will be served. This is an opportunity to socialise and to meet the management committee, the members of the street patrol and prayer teams and other attendees and to find out more about the rewarding work that Dereham Town Pastors do in our town.

**Marriage & Family Life, Annual Mass** - Bishop Alan has invited all married people across the Diocese of East Anglia to celebrate at the annual Marriage and Family Life Mass on **Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> June at 11.30am at St John's Cathedral in Norwich.** All are welcome and those who are celebrating significant anniversaries (one year, five years and every multiple of five years thereafter) will receive a certificate. If you would like to register for a certificate please contact Bonnie Lander Johnson on [mflc.eastanglia@rcdea.org.uk](mailto:mflc.eastanglia@rcdea.org.uk) or 07849357518. Join Bishop Alan after Mass for tea and cake in the Narthex and cathedral gardens. Photographs will be available for purchase online. There will be a collection at the Mass for those who wish to help the Marriage and Family Life Commission in their work.

**Children's Pilgrimage to Walsingham** – The annual Children's Pilgrimage to Walsingham this year is on **Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> May.** The day begins at 10.45am with procession from the village to the shrine, followed by Mass at 12.00 noon at the Chapel of Reconciliation celebrated by Bishop Alan; afterwards, picnic at the Shrine and finishing the day on the beach at nearby Wells-Next-The-Sea. Further details from Christine Storman, Tel: 01493 717121, email: [chrissies18@hotmail.com](mailto:chrissies18@hotmail.com) Parishes are asked to notify Christine if they will be bringing a group.

***In Eastertide, we recite REGINA CAELI in place of the Angelus:***

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.