

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER



### Looking for Truth

Today's gospel reading has a disturbing element for those of us who harbour doubts over what Jesus asks us to believe. Disturbingly Jesus tells us, "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." Because we are used to beatitudes having a flip side we somehow imagine the unspoken words to be "... And woe to those who ask for forensic evidence!" We imagine that it is sacrilegious to express doubt or search for proof and so

we keep our doubts to ourselves. Thomas however had no such inhibition.

When the disciples told Thomas that the crucified Jesus had risen from the dead and appeared amongst them in the upper room, Thomas declared that unless he could see the mark of the nails and put his hand into Jesus' side he could not believe. Thomas was a loving and courageous disciple of Jesus. Thomas wasn't someone who would have thrown his faith away or turned his back on Jesus, but nor was he a man who would say he believed something that he didn't or that he understood something that was beyond him. Importantly, Jesus does not scold Thomas for asking for proof; on the contrary, Jesus is quick to give physical confirmation of his resurrection. Perhaps the message here is that if we want to believe, God will show us a way.

Thomas teaches us not to be afraid to express doubt. For Thomas, doubt was not the same as disbelieving. Thomas's doubts proved stepping-stones to faith. Pretending that we believe things we don't, or claiming to understand things that elude us is a shaky foundation for faith. Doubt is not the same thing as disbelief, and faith only eludes us when we give up looking for the truth.

### Bite Size

"Every tomorrow has two handles. We can take hold of it by the handle of anxiety, or by the handle of faith." - *Author Unknown*

**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 Website: <http://www.rcdea.org.uk>  
Notre Dame High School, Norwich: Website <http://www.ndhs.org.uk>

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

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### 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2016 - 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

#### Sunday Masses – Page 262 of Parish Mass Book

Saturday	6.00 pm	Special Int.
Sunday	9.00 am	People of the Parish
	11.00 am	Special Int. (Kemp)

#### Music for Sunday Masses - *Setting: Dom Gregory Murray Mass*

**Entry** 6pm – *Regina Coeli (said)*; Hymn 287- Thine be the glory ...

**Offertory** Hymn 644 – Alleluia, sing to Jesus ...

**Communion** *Instrumental Interlude/Sacred silence ...*

**Recessional** 11am – *Regina Coeli (said)*; Hymn 465 – This is the day ...

### CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION - Saturday at 5.30 - 5.55 pm

#### Weekday Mass Times (2<sup>nd</sup> week of Easter) [*Psalter Week 2*]

Mon.	10.00 am	Donor's Int. - THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD (Solemnity)
Tues.	<b>No Mass today</b>	- Easter Feria
	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – in Emmaus Room
Weds.	10.00 am	Donor's Int. - Easter Feria
Thurs.	10.00 am	Donor's Int. - St John Baptist de la Salle
	12.45 pm	Funeral Service for Michael John Barty
Fri.	10.00 am	Donor's Int. - Easter Feria
	5.45 pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Silent Prayer
	6.15 pm	Evening Prayer (Vespers)
Sat.	10.30 am	Donor's Int. - Easter Feria
	6.00 pm	Donor's Int. - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

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

**Anniversaries this week:** Stephanie Grange, Roger Borthwick, Edith Graydon-Carter, Harold Chapman, James Juby, Patrick Joseph Mullally, Consuelo Murphy and Ted Clark. *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 (QEII), King's Lynn, 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 Fr Peter Rollings (01553 772220) for visits to QEII. If you would like to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the sick before going to hospital, please contact Fr. Brendan on 01362 694066.

**Sick List - Please pray for:** Joan Blakiston, David Peek, Michael Reavey, Robert Nicol, Doreen Kanssen, Shirley Liebenhals, Sarah Chaudri, Anne & Derek Williams, David & Anna Thompkins, Michelle Smith, Rita Smith, Rhonda Darby, Eileen Brockleby, Pat Howe, Kathleen (Jenny) Rudd and Pat Grout.

**Money Matters** – Thank you very much for your very generous Easter Offering which amounted to £1603.53. I am deeply appreciative of your generosity. The collection on Maundy Thursday for the SVP amounted to £122.81 and the collection for the upkeep of the Holy Land Shrines was £143.11.

**Diary Dates for this week –**

- Sat. – Saturday Club is on holiday until 16<sup>th</sup> April.

**Grateful Thanks** to all who attended, prepared the Church, read, sang, served, played instruments, constructed and disassembled the Altar of Repose, led the Stations of the Cross, prepared the children to lead the Stations of the Cross, made tea, coffee, washed up, opened up and locked up, put lights on, took up collections, arranged flowers, decorated the Paschal Candle, cleaned up candle grease, tidied up chairs, books, lit the fire and all who contributed to our celebration of the Sacred Triduum. It is very dangerous to attempt to make a list because someone is bound to be overlooked. This list is an expression of thanks but it also an indication of the gift of time, energy and resources that parishioners put into the celebration of Easter. Thank you all very much indeed for what you do and apologies to anyone whom I have overlooked !

**Mass Intentions** - With regard to Mass Intentions, as a rule, I will always try to celebrate for a given intention on the day and time requested. However, if you want a Mass celebrated for an intention on a Sunday please be aware that it may take a few weeks for the time to become available. Of the three Sunday Masses celebrated each week one always has to be for the people of the parish. It is the parish Priest's obligation to say this Mass each week.

**130 Club** – There are two unexpected vacancies in the 130 Club offered on a first come, first served basis. Please see Patrick Monaghan if you'd like to join, or to purchase an extra number if you are an existing member.

**Safeguarding** – Kathleen Edmunds has now been confirmed as our Safeguarding

Representative for the parish.

**Parish Census** – A parish census is planned to take place on the weekends of the 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> April to enable our parish records to be updated. Everyone will be invited to update their contact information. This will help us to improve parish communication and keep you updated on important news, initiatives and events.

**Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for April - For Small Scale Farmers** - Small scale farmers and workers are amongst the most marginalised groups on our planet, many simply struggling to live. There's plenty we can do to help these people. We can campaign for fairer and more inclusive trade deals, we can buy 'Fairtrade', and we can persuade our supermarkets to stock a greater range of Fairtrade products. This month, Pope Francis invites us to join in his prayer intention for April , **"...That small farmers may receive a just reward for their precious labour."**

**Diocesan Summer Camp 2016** – At Eccles Hall from Fri. 26th August to Mon. 29th August 2016 - For applicants aged between 8 yrs to 14 yrs of age. Cost £83.00. To reserve a place on Camp a fully completed application form together with a deposit of £25 is required by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016. Early booking is recommended. A separate application form is required for each child. For more information, see the application forms and poster at the back of church.

Whilst costs have to be met, the summer camp team are eager that any child who wishes to attend the Camp is able to do so and if the fee causes financial difficulty for any parent/guardian (particularly when more than one of your children are coming along) they are encouraged to contact Chris Storman (tel: 01493 717121 or [chrissies18@hotmail.com](mailto:chrissies18@hotmail.com)) or Lorraine Furmedge at [diocesansummercamps@gmail.com](mailto:diocesansummercamps@gmail.com) Similarly if any parishioner would like to sponsor a child to attend camp, or make a contribution towards the camp, then again please contact Chris or Lorraine.

***In Eastertide, we recite REGINA COELI 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.