

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR EASTER SUNDAY

When We Are Down



Winston Churchill was invited to speak to a boys' school in England during the most difficult days of World War II. He simply said these words, "Never give up, never give up, never, never, never." After this he sat down. When it was reported in the papers, it became the mantra for the British people during the darkest days of the war. This would make a good Christian mantra too. It's a mantra that reminds us, that however dark our lives might feel, we are never abandoned. However defeated we might feel, the resurrection is there to show us that we have a future.

Easter is a good time to reaffirm our faith. The Resurrection is the culmination of Christ's journey on this earth, and the beginning of our journey in faith. Our journey begins with belief in the Resurrection. The Resurrection reminds us that God can lift up what is cast down, mend what is broken and raise what is dead. The Resurrection didn't of course make everything all right for us. We still have a world full of pain, sickness and sin, but now we have a hope that we didn't have before. The empty tomb points to God working in our world. At whatever stage we are in our journey of faith, the Resurrection means that nothing can be the same again.

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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5TH APRIL 2015 - EASTER SUNDAY

Weekend Masses - Page 251 of Parish Mass Book

Easter Sunday 9.00 am

11.00 am People of the Parish *(Angelus)*

Confession/Reconciliation - Saturday at 5.30 - 5.55 pm

Weekday Services *[Morning Prayer - Psalter Week 1]*

Mon.	10.00 am	Octave of Easter
Tues.	10.00 am	Octave of Easter
	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group - in Emmaus Room
Weds.	10.00 am	Octave of Easter
Thurs.	No Mass Today	Octave of Easter
Fri.	10.00 am	Ulrika Lubben - Octave of Easter
Sat.	10.30 am	Octave of Easter
	6.00 pm	Special Intention - 2 nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)

Anniversaries this week: Harold Chapman, James Juby, Patrick Joseph Mullally, Consuelo Murphy, Ted Clark, Tom Brady and Cyril Byrne. *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 £452.87. In addition, £383 was given by standing order in February. Thank you all very much.

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.

Diocesan Year Books are now available at the back of the Church, price £3.50.

Keys - If anyone has keys to the church or the presbytery that they no longer have need of, could you please return them to Fr. Brendan

UCM April Meeting and visit to Dale Farm Gardens - UCM members are reminded that for this month's meeting, **Wednesday 29th April**, we are visiting Dale Farm, who were finalists in the Best Gardeners Garden competition and is featured in the National Gardens Scheme. We are asked to gather in the Emmaus room at 12.30 for a short meeting. Members may wish to bring a packed lunch and have a cup of tea or coffee. We then intend to leave, car sharing where possible, to arrive at Dale Farm at 2pm. The cost of the visit which includes tea and cake is £6 per person. Parishioners/friends who may wish to join us at Dale farm are asked to leave their contact details with Anne Sibley or Jeannette Harris either in person, or via pigeon holes at the back of the church. Firm bookings only please as refreshments need to be organised in advance.

Season of Easter - Easter isn't just one day; it's a 'season'. The fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost are celebrated in joyful exultation as one feast day, or better as one "great Sunday". The gospel readings for the first three Sundays recount the appearances of the risen Christ. The readings about the Good Shepherd are assigned to the Fourth Sunday. On the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Sundays, there are excerpts from the Lord's discourse and prayer at the last supper.

For New Members of the Church - The Easter Vigil is the usual time to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) with Adults. The Easter Season is therefore the time for post-baptismal catechesis or 'mystagogy' with the newly baptised or 'neophytes'. This is a time for the community and the neophytes together to grow in deepening their grasp of the paschal mystery and in making it part of their lives through meditation on the Gospel, sharing in the Eucharist, and in doing works of charity.

Pope Francis's Prayer Intention for April

For Persecuted Christians



The Open Doors World Watch List highlights the 50 countries where it is most difficult to live as a Christian. These are the places where followers of Christ must keep their beliefs hidden and where living the gospel means facing beatings, imprisonment, discrimination and abuse.

This month we are invited to join in Pope Francis's prayer intention "...That persecuted Christians may feel the consoling presence of the Risen Lord and the solidarity of all the Church.

Peace Actions for April 2015

- With only weeks before the UK General Election, decide what in your eyes makes a 'good society'.
- It is likely your children are eating more chocolate than usual at the moment... make sure it's Fairtrade. Remember that 'The Real Easter Egg' is the first and only Fairtrade chocolate Easter egg to explain the Christian understanding of Easter.
- Involve your children in 'virtual giving'. Consider buying chickens for third world families.
- Consider supporting a charity that supports persecuted Christians.... e.g. 'Aid to the Church In Need'.

Thanksgiving Service for the Light Dragoons – 16th April 2015

There is to be a Thanksgiving Service at St Nicholas Church, Dereham at 12 noon on Thursday, 16th April as the Light Dragoons prepare to leave Norfolk. (Please note that space will be limited in the Church.)

Bite Size - *"The only limit to our realisation of tomorrow will be our doubts of today. Let us move forward with strong and active faith."*

Franklin D. Roosevelt.