

**GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**



**Forward Thinking**

For those who find belief elusive, there is an uncomfortable beatitude in today’s gospel. “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.” This can feel like a reproach to those of us who harbour doubts, but the important thing to remember is that can be a good thing. Doubt means that we are still

questioning something that we care about. Doubt means that we are still looking for answers ..... that we are still learning and growing. Doubt is a tool that we can use to carve a mature faith. Belief isn’t something we either have or haven’t got ... belief is a process, and the end product of that process, is one’s own spiritual self.

The story of ‘Doubting Thomas’ is aimed at all those generations of people who will not see the risen Lord, yet are asked to believe. So are we really being asked to believe in what we cannot see or hear or touch, when even those closest to Jesus had problems in accepting what was happening?

In today’s gospel we see Thomas struggling with a problem that many of us still struggle with today. Thomas desperately wanted to believe in the risen Jesus, but he wasn’t the sort of person to pretend he understood something when he didn’t. He wasn’t the sort of person that could pretend that he didn’t have doubts when he did. There are many of us today who desperately want deeper meaning in our lives. There are those amongst us who have become disillusioned with the Church and wish they could embrace what it once meant. There are many of us who would like to find a deeper faith but have found only stumbling blocks. Like Thomas, we find that the gap between faith and doubt too big a leap. The good news is that just as Jesus showed Thomas patience so he will be patient with us too. The good news is that just as Jesus gave Thomas a way to forward his faith so too will we be shown a way forward if we want it enough.

**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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**12 APRIL 2015 – 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Weekend Masses – Page 255 of Parish Mass Book**

Saturday	6.00 pm	Special Intention	<i>(Regina Coeli)</i>
Sunday	9.00 am	May & Gerald Reeder	
	11.00 am	People of the Parish	<i>(Regina Coeli)</i>

**Confession/Reconciliation - Saturday at 5.30 - 5.55 pm**

**Weekday Services**

*[Morning Prayer – Psalter Week 2]*

Mon.	10.00 am	The Batey Family – Easter Feria
Tues.	<b>No Mass Today</b>	Easter Feria
	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – in Emmaus Room
Weds.	10.00 am	Holy Souls – Easter Feria
	7.30 pm	SVP meeting – in Emmaus Room
Thurs.	10.00 am	Holy Souls – Easter Feria
Fri.	10.00 am	Holy Souls – Easter Feria
Sat.	10.30 am	Holy Souls – Easter Feria
	6.00 pm	Holy Souls – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

**Anniversaries this week:**

Cyril Byrne, Brigid Mary Murphy, Daniel Creamer, Colin Nicholson, Eileen Wells, Christina Duffield, Enid Whatmore, Bernard Beddington, Edwin Gatt, Margaret Warner, Frederick Hetherington and Tony Lannon.  
*May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

**The Easter Offering** – I am very grateful to all of you for your very generous Easter Offering which amounted to £1297.39. The Good Friday collection for the Holy Land shrines was £135.82 and the Maundy Thursday collection for St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) was £118.20. Direct Debits/Standing Orders to the Parish for March was £650. Thank you very much for that.

**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.

**Easter at Sacred Heart 2015** - Thanks to everyone who contributed in any and every way to the celebration of Easter this year. I am very grateful to all of you who helped and who attended the various liturgies. It was a steep learning curve for me and I think there are ways in which our celebration of the Paschal Mystery can be improved. There are issues with car parking, for instance. I will be holding a meeting or two with a few people to reflect on the entire experience. I was/am happy with it but I would like to improve it a bit. I would also like to thank you for your lovely Easter Cards which I will keep up for the Easter Octave.

**Divine Mercy Sunday** - This Sunday is popularly known as 'Mercy of God Sunday.' Between 1930 and 1938 Christ appeared to Sister Faustina, a Sister of Mercy in Poland who initiated the Divine Mercy devotion. She was canonized on April 30th, 2000, the Sunday after Easter, the Feast of Divine Mercy. The second Sunday of Easter is also known as 'Low Sunday' or 'Thomas Sunday'.

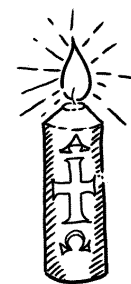
**St. Bernadette Soubirous: 16<sup>th</sup> April** - Millions of people have come to the spring Bernadette uncovered for healing of body and spirit, but she found no relief from ill health there herself. Interestingly Bernadette moved through life, guided only by blind faith in things she did not understand. Blind faith is something we might find uncomfortable in this day and age, but is something we are all guided by from time to time. Maybe there are times we have to accept that blind faith is better than blind doubt.

**Love in Nature - The Climate Coalition Photography Competition.** - This Spring, The Climate Coalition and Stop Climate Chaos Scotland are launching a photography competition to find the most beautiful examples of love in nature – and raise awareness of all we love in nature that could be affected by climate change. Entry is easy – you can submit your photos on the Climate Coalition Facebook page, or by sending your photo via email to [loveinnature@theclimatcoalition.org](mailto:loveinnature@theclimatcoalition.org). The closing date for entries is Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> May 2015. Please note that this competition is open to amateur photographers only. Full Terms & Conditions can be found at [www.fortheloveof.org.uk/love-nature/](http://www.fortheloveof.org.uk/love-nature/)

***Bite Size***

“I respect faith, but doubt is what gets you an education.”

*Wilson Mizner*



***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.*