GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER

Moving Mountains



We live in an age where everything has to be 'seen to be believed'. If we haven't heard in Breakfast News or read it on the front page of 'The Independent', then it can't be true. For a scientist to act in faith rather than on proven fact, or for a detective to make an arrest without hard evidence would be deemed negligent. Faith is the domain of the non-scientific. Faith is reserved for when we follow

our hearts and our instincts. The solely scientific see no validation for faith, and yet we are told that faith has the power to move mountains.

The story of 'Doubting Thomas' is interesting in that it addresses doubt in the first place. If Jesus wasn't expecting us to suffer doubts, why address the subject in the first place? We are brought up to think of faith as good and doubt as bad, but would God really want us to bury our doubts and fake our religious experience? For all of us who do not have the benefit of Thomas's first hand experience, the good news is that doubt and faith are opposite sides of the same coin. Honest doubt can ultimately lead to a stronger faith. Doubt leads to questions, and whereas questions don't always lead to answers, they almost always lead to spiritual growth.

Today we are encouraged to believe without seeing. No, we're not being asked to silence our doubts or to leave our brains at the church door! The reality of our faith boils down not to what we are able or not able to believe, but who we believe in. Can trusting Jesus give us faith enough to move mountains?

Bite Size "Doubt is a pain too lonely to know that faith is his twin brother." *~Khalil Gibran*

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 [Reg. Charity 278742]

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 Parish website: http://www.sacredheartdereham.org.uk
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23rd APRIL 2017 - 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday Masses – Page 255 of Parish Mass Book			
Saturday	6.00 pm	Donor's Int.	
Sunday	9.00 am	People of the Parish	
	11.00 am	Holy Souls	

Music for Sunday Masses - Setting: Dom Gregory Murray Mass

Entry 6pm – Regina Coeli (said); Hymn 283 – The day of resurrection! ...
Offertory Hymn 644 – Alleluia, sing to Jesus ...
Communion Instrumental Interlude/Sacred silence ...
Recessional 11am – Regina Coeli (said); Hymn 286 – This joyful Eastertide ...

CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION - Saturday at 5.30 - 5.55 pm

Weekda	Weekday Mass Times (2 nd week of Easter) [Psalter Week 2]					
Mon.	10.00 am	ST GEORGE, PATRON OF ENGLAND – Donor's Int.				
Tues.	No Mass today	St Mark, Evangelist				
	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – in Emmaus Room				
Weds.	No Mass today	Easter Feria				
Thurs.	10.00 am	Easter Feria – Donor's Int.				
Fri.	10.00 am	Easter Feria – Int. Tim Salter				
Sat.	10.30 am	St Catherine of Siena, Patron of Europe – Int. Rose Bere				
	6.00 pm	3 rd SUNDAY OF EASTER – Donor's Int.				

Useful links: Diocesan Website: http://www.rcdea.org.uk Notre Dame High School, Norwich: Website http://www.ndhs.org.uk The Parish Newsletter (incl. back copies) is available to view on the parish website from Friday onward each week. **Anniversaries this week:** William Gibbons, Howard Leslie, John Woodhouse, Theo Sandars, Fr. Guy (Vincent) Wace, Timothy Salter and Eddie Wilde. *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, Robert Nicol, Shirley Liebenhals, Sarah Chaudri, Anne & Derek Williams, Michelle Smith, Rita Smith, Eileen Brockleby, Pat Howe, Kathleen (Jenny) Rudd, Ellen Flood, Margaret Leggett, Peter Brown, James Maxwell and Robert Anderson.

A Big Thank You to everyone for all the work that went into celebrating Easter. It takes a lot of time and effort to make it look as if 'everything just happens.' The serenity of Holy Week and Easter belies all the effort made by so many people to ensure that it is a wonderful experience for all of us. Thank you for your Easter Offering to me of £1,360.81, I deeply appreciate your generosity. You also gave £51.73 to Lenten Alms; £101.75 to the Holy Places and £143.37 to the S.V.P.

Diary Dates for	Diary Dates for this week –			
Mon. 24 April	AA Group meeting – 7.30pm-9.00pm in Emmaus Room			
Weds. 26 April	UCM outing – 11am meet in car park – <i>See item below</i>			
Fri. 28 April	Confirmation Candidates meet – 7.15pm in Emmaus Room			
Sat. 29 April	Saturday Club meets - 11.00am in Emmaus Room			

Union of Catholic Mothers - A visit is being planned by UCM to Bawdeswell Garden Centre on **Wednesday, 26th April**, staying for lunch. We will meet in the church car park at 11 am, to organise car sharing. We will need to advise them of numbers expected, to reserve some seating for us. *Anyone* in the parish is welcome to join us. Please tell Anne Sibley or Brenda May if you are interested.

Ministry to Priests Programme takes place at Clare Priory this week, so I will be attending that on Tuesday to Wednesday.

Parish Meeting – The minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 2nd April are now available to read on the parish website and a copy is also posted on the notice board at the back of Church.

Bike Ride Newsletter April 2017 – From The Norfolk Churches Trust : "The spring looks as if it has finally arrived and everyone is out and about walking or riding their bicycles in the countryside making the most of the sunshine. The lambs are bouncing around in the fields and we have started our advertising and paperwork distribution lists for the Bike Ride 2017. However, we have not forgotten that we owe you an update on the final figures for the Bike Ride 2016! The Bike Ride was supported by 565 participants last year making 2,198 visits to churches and chapels, raising a whopping £100,261! Over 200 new participants joined the ranks which is great news for the future. This was despite the terrible weather. There was an increase in those of you who chose to walk or drive but the majority of participants took to their bikes. Thank you everyone who did brave the rain and cold winds of the day. The top church, All Saints, Burnham Thorpe, raised £4,083 and knocked Hempstead, All Saints into second place" See the Newsletter on the noticeboard at the back of church for the full story.

Children's Pilgrimage to Walsingham: Tuesday, 30th May 2017 – This annual Diocesan pilgrimage for children takes place during school half-term holiday. The day will begin with a procession from the village at 10.45am, walking to the shrine along the safe path (formerly the railway line), with pauses for prayer along the way. Mass will be celebrated at 12.00 noon, with Bishop Alan, and afterwards with a picnic in the meadow. It is hoped to finish the day on the beach at nearby Wells-Next-the-Sea. Children provide the music for Mass, serve and read. Any musicians or servers from the Parish would be welcomed. Parishes are asked to let Christine Storman know if they are bringing a group to ensure the children are included in the Welcome and possibly involve them more in the day. Contact Christine on 01493 717121 or email: *chrissies18@hotmail.com*

In Eastertide, we recite REGINA COELI in place of 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.