

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



We'll Never Walk Alone - As we look for meaning in life, for fulfilment and happiness, our frantic quest often becomes a vicious circle. The more we search, the more life eludes us. We reach the age of thirty, then forty, fifty, sixty and so on, with the increasing frustration that we have achieved little of what we set out to achieve in our optimistic youth. Then a nagging doubt sets in. Perhaps we will never amount to anything! Is this all that life holds for us?

The 'Road to Emmaus' can be perceived as a metaphor for our own life span. On Palm Sunday we heard how in a state of huge expectation, Jesus' supporters met Jesus on his triumphant entry into Jerusalem. There were those who had expected Jesus to start something of a revolution, and they desperately wanted to be a part of it. There were those who had expected Jesus to transform and improve their lives only to have their hopes dashed. In today's gospel, two such disciples are making their way back home and discussing the events of the last days. They are feeling defeated, gloomy and considerably let down. But as their journey progresses, they meet a stranger who teaches them how to look on things differently and where to look for the answers they lack. The stranger of course is Jesus. For the two disciples what begins with the shattering of an immature faith ends up with them giving witness to a mature and sustaining faith.

Could the story be about us? Every broken dream, disappointment and doubt is out there on the Road to Emmaus. Each of us is challenged to decide which part of the journey we have reached. Are we disillusioned and beating our heads against the proverbial brick wall? Or have we recognised that perhaps if life's rewards are eluding us, we need to be doing things differently. Could it be that we are looking for answers in all the wrong places? Most importantly, have we reached an awareness that we are never alone? Jesus promises that he is still with us just as he was with those unsuspecting early disciples. He is with us in scripture, and in his teaching. He is with us in the Eucharist, and he is with us in our prayers.

Bitesize - It is better to know some of the questions than all of the answers.

James Thurber, US author, cartoonist, humourist, & satirist (1894 - 1961)



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

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26TH APRIL 2020 – 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER – Year C

THE CHURCH REMAINS CLOSED AT THIS TIME

Mass Times for the coming week		
3 rd Week of Easter, Weekday Year II, Psalter Week 3		
<i>Although celebrated without a congregation, the times of Mass are as follows:</i>		
Sunday, 26 th Apr	11:00 am	3 rd Sunday of Easter
Monday, 27 th Apr	12:00 Noon	Easter Feria
Tuesday, 28 th Apr	12:00 Noon	Easter Feria
Wednesday, 29 th Apr	12:00 Noon	S Catherine of Siena, Patron of Europe
Thursday, 30 th Apr	12:00 Noon	Easter Feria
Friday, 1 st May	12:00 Noon	Easter Feria – Day of Prayer for God's blessing on human work
Saturday, 2 nd May	12:00 Noon	S Athanasius
Sunday, 3 rd May	11:00 am	4 th Sunday of Easter

DO NOT LOOK FORWARD to what might happen tomorrow; the same Everlasting Father who cares for you today, will take care of you tomorrow and every day. Either He will shield you from suffering or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace, then, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginings.

St Francis de Sales

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

Anniversaries this week: Fr Guy (Vincent) Wace, Timothy Salter, Eddie Wilde, Roger Gerald Clancy, James Tinney, Mary Gatt, Sarah Courtney, Irene Barnes, and David Horsburgh. *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: Janet Yardley, Jenny Rudd, Carol Whitesides, Shirley Liebenhals, Frances Saville King, Una McWeeny, Derek Williams, Teresa Kendall, Greta Cummings.

Money Matters: Nothing to report.

Diary Dates for this week – All parish group meetings are currently suspended while the church remains closed at this time.

Do not look forward..... Sometimes you come across a poem or a sentence that it is impossible to add anything to it without detracting from it. I think that the quotation from St Francis de Sales is one of these. I came across it for the first time, many years ago, when it was written out and given to me by a parishioner during a difficult time in my life. That was over 25 years ago and I still have that card and I still appreciate the wisdom of St. Francis. Somehow these words resonated within me and have remained with me. That is why I like to share them with you. St. Francis de Sales just asks us to trust in God. 'Simples' as the tv ad puts it. It is a simple concept, but difficult to achieve. We are so used to being in charge of things, directing our own lives, making choices, making decisions, coming and going at will, and so on. Now in these times, we trust in God working in other people, we trust in our scientists, our medical professionals. Another wise parishioner many years later said to me. 'God gives us life and when we become ill, He gives us doctors.'

It is a funny old world when the most social thing we can do is social distancing.

Joseph the Worker: For the Work of Human Hands, 1st May 2020 - At a time when we give huge votes of thanks to our NHS workers, it is tempting for the rest of us to think that perhaps our own jobs aren't worth as much. The truth is, that everyone's job is reliant on someone else's. We are all part of a big human jigsaw and we are all valuable. Whether we are currently working or currently in lockdown, this is a time for us all to consider how to make our skills more valuable to others.

Catholic East Anglia – The April issue of the Diocesan newspaper is available online at <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/april-edition-of-catholic-east-anglia-is-now-live-online/>

Live Mass Streaming around the Diocese – You can find a growing list of churches that are live streaming services around the Diocese on the Diocesan website: www.rcdea.org.uk including:

St Laurence's in Cambridge at: www.saintlaurence.org.uk/live

The **Catholic National Shrine at Walsingham** at: www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream

St John's Cathedral in Norwich at: www.sjbcathedral.org.uk

Our Lady of the Assumption and the English Martyrs in Cambridge, [details here.](#)

St Luke's Peterborough, daily at 11am from Fr Alfonso-Jude Belnas' home (Sundays from St Luke's) can be watched here: <https://twitter.com/saintlukesbull>

Fr James Caulfield at **Our Lady and St Charles Borromeo in Wisbech** is recording a daily Mass and making it available for broadcast at 10am each day on **YouTube**. Fr James has also recorded the Angelus promise and will post other prayers such as the stations of the cross over the next few days.

Living in A Virtual World -

- You don't need a Kindle to read Kindle books. You can download the free Kindle app onto any device. Better still, lots of Kindle e-books are free to Kindle Unlimited members. For instance, at the time of writing there are three or four free books on the topic of today's Gospel reading.
- If you are sitting at home wondering how you can increase your knowledge for when you get back to work, consider doing one of the Open University's 800 free short courses. Visit www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses/full-catalogue Some of the short courses are 'badged' which means they might have some value in a job application.



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.