

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR EASTER SUNDAY



Truth and Proof

The empty tomb gives our life purpose. Belief in the resurrection means we can live life boldly and well, looking forward to eternal life. The empty tomb gives us a means to deal with pain and suffering, it means that death is not a meaningless end of life, but the door to the fullness of life with the risen Christ. So given that the resurrection is essential to our faith, how disappointing it is that this bit of the Bible does not give us more detail. Are we left feeling that we have arrived at the tomb just a little too late to see what happened? Are we left feeling as confused as the original disciples?

We are not at this point to try and work out who moved the stone from the tomb we are not asked to play 'time detective'. In our human search for certainty all we can do at his point is put the resurrection into the context of the rest of Jesus' life and teachings. We have to trust that everything Jesus has told us is true, and that the resurrection is not just an invention to give a tragic story a happy ending, but the realisation of the promises Jesus made all along. Jesus promised all along that death couldn't contain us, and the empty tomb points to this not necessarily as proof, but as truth. Scientists teach us that something has to be proven repeatedly before we can call it a truth, but as Christians, we now that truth abounds all around us whether anyone has proved it or not. Truth does not wait to be proven.

We are not of course, asked to leave our brains at the church door, but we are asked to approach Easter with a broad mind and an open heart, and not to see 'truth' as something we can only find with a textbook and a microscope.

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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27TH MARCH 2016 - EASTER SUNDAY

Easter Mass Times - (Page 223 / 258 of Parish Mass Book)

Holy Saturday	8.00 pm	Private Int. - Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday	9.00 am	People of the Parish - Mass during the Day
	11.00 am	ManueldoMonte de Abreu - Mass during the Day

Music for Easter Masses - Setting: Dom Gregory Murray Mass

Easter Vigil Mass - Sprinkling of Water: Hymn 512- Water of Life

Easter Alleluia: Hymn 261

Offertory: Hymn 269 - At the lamb's high feast we sing

Communion: Hymn 286 - At this joyful Eastertide

Exit: Hymn 271 - Battle is o'er

Easter Sunday

Entry: Hymn 269 - At the lamb's high feast we sing

Offertory: Hymn 286 - At this joyful Eastertide

Exit: Hymn 271 - Battle is o'er

CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION - Saturday at 5.30 - 5.55 pm

Weekday Masses [Psalter - **Easter Octave**, or *Easter Sunday may be used for the Octave*]

Mon.	10.00 am	Donor's Int. (recently Dec'd) - Easter Octave
Tues.	No Mass today	- Easter Octave
	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group - in Emmaus Room
Weds.	10.00 am	The English Family (<i>Foundation Mass</i>) - Easter Octave
Thurs.	10.00 am	Mona Murphy (<i>Foundation Mass</i>) - Easter Octave
Fri.	10.00 am	Albert Foley (<i>Foundation Mass</i>) - Easter Octave
	5.45 pm	Exposition & Silent Prayer
	6.15 pm	Evening Prayer
Sat.	10.30 am	Donor's Int. - Easter Octave
	6.00 pm	Special Int. - 2 nd 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: Helena Josephine Bennett, Michael Casey, Sidney Carter, Antonio Pereira, Patrick Malone, Margaret Hindle, Gladys Reeve, Rita Power, Vera Conway, Iain Walton, Ricci (Frederica) White and Maria Madalena Santana. *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 – The collection last weekend amounted to £505.82 and Lenten Alms collected throughout Lent was £367.63. Thank you for your generosity. The collection at the Easter Masses is the traditional Easter Offering to the Parish Priest.

Michael John Barty died recently and his funeral will take place at 12.45 on Thursday, 7th April. It will be a funeral service followed by cremation at Mintlyn Crematorium.

Diary Dates for this week –

- Fri. 1st Apr – SVP 'First Friday' Coffee Morning. 10.30am. All welcome.
- Sat. – Saturday Club is on holiday until 16th April.
- Sat/Sun. 2nd/3rd April – UCM Cake Stall.

Not Just Easter Sunday - The Easter Season isn't just Easter Sunday. It's fifty days long, and the last of those days is Pentecost (Greek for 'fiftieth') marking the birth of the Church and the coming of the Holy Spirit. During these fifty days of Easter, we will be listening to the stories of the struggles and hardships of the early followers of Jesus.

Newman Lectures at UEA - The 2016 Newman Lectures begin at UEA on Monday, 4th April and continue on Mondays throughout April. Speakers include Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor and Bishop Philip Egan. Lectures begin at 6.30pm in the Julian Study Centre at UEA and are free to all. There is also free

parking at UEA for those attending. For more information see www.newmanlectures.co.uk or pick up a leaflet at the back of church.

Spring Clean for the Barnabas Fund - With the onset of Spring, many of us are de-cluttering our houses. Rather than throwing things into landfill, you can use your clutter to raise money for the Barnabas Fund, the charity that supports persecuted and disadvantaged Christians in 75 countries. You can donate between ten and 100 per cent of proceeds when you sell unwanted items on eBay. Simply list the item in the usual way on the Barnabas Fund eBay charity page and specify the percentage of the sale you wish the Barnabas Fund to receive. Easy!

Recommended Reading- Journeying with Jonah: The Struggle to Find Yourself by Denis McBride C.Ss.R. (Redemptorist Publications) - "There is one constant in the book of Jonah: Jonah's belief that God's indiscriminate mercy extended to the pagans of Nineveh is not only inappropriate but incomprehensible: Jonah is scandalised by God's mercy. Our minor prophet has to learn as we all do, that mercy is indivisible: we cannot plead for mercy for ourselves and then deny it to others."

Bite Size

"Seek truth and you will find a path." - *Frank Slaughter*

Urbi et Orbi

BBC ONE Sunday 27 March 11.00-11.25am

On this the fourth Easter of his pontificate, Pope Francis gives his Easter Sunday Message and Blessing, *Urbi et Orbi*, to the City and to the World. Mike Wooldridge sets the scene.

