

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR EASTER SUNDAY

Approaching the Empty Tomb



Traditionally at this time of year thousands of new Christians are baptised all over the world. A young man baptised recently was asked, "Do you feel different now that you are baptised and a Christian?" "Yes," he replied, "I went from believing nothing to believing everything sort of vaguely. I hope God will make things clearer to me as I continue on this journey."

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, but approaching the 'Empty Tomb' isn't easy. Who moved the stone we wonder. Why were the linen wrappings removed, and why was the cloth that wrapped Jesus' head rolled neatly and placed separately? In our modern-day times of detective stories and forensic science there is an inclination to turn the empty tomb into a crime scene, but the problem with looking at the empty tomb from an investigative point of view is that we're in danger of missing a greater truth, and the amazing implications of a Resurrection that was after all predicted.

If we were to fully embrace the reality of the Easter story, we would pour out of church bouncing with a newfound enthusiasm for life. So how do we embrace the reality of a story for which there is no proof? Jesus promised all along that death couldn't contain us, and the empty tomb points to this not necessarily as proof, but as something that was promised. Why therefore, in the context of everything else that Jesus did and said, should this surprise us?

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.

Bitesize – 'Always walk through life as if you have something new to learn and you will.' ~Vernon Howard



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.

Permanent Deacon: Rev. Martin Sanderson
Parish Music team: Judy Reid, Kathleen Edmunds & William Preddy.
Parish Safeguarding Representative: Kathleen Edmunds
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Sunday 31st March 2024 – Easter Sunday

[Sundays Year B, Octave of Easter, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week Pr.]

MASSSES in the PARISH

Saturday 30th March

10.00 Morning Prayer

20.00 **EASTER VIGIL MASS**

Sunday 31st March

09.00 MASS

11.00 MASS *Live streamed*

Monday 1st April

10.00 Service of the Word & Holy Communion

Tuesday 2nd April

10.00 MASS

Wednesday 3rd April

10.00 MASS

Thursday 4th April

10.00 MASS & ADORATION

Friday 5th April

- No Mass today

Saturday 6th April

18.00 *First MASS of Sunday*

Sunday 7th April

09.00 MASS

11.00 MASS *Live streamed*

Easter Sunday

For the People of the Parish

+Peter Knight (CP)

Easter Octave

Service of the Word & Holy Communion

Easter Octave

Kevin O'Brien (Sick)

Easter Octave

+Michael Murphy

Easter Octave

Joy Bussey (for healing) (RB)

Easter Octave

Easter Octave

+John Robinson (TB)

2nd Sunday of Easter

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Thursday after 10.00 Mass and Saturday at 17.30
EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION: Thursday after Mass

Rosary & Morning Prayer are said weekdays before Mass from 09:15.

For Live Streamed Masses Search for Dereham Catholic Church on YouTube, or use the link on the parish website.

The parish newsletter is available on the parish website from Friday each week.

Anniversaries this week: Margaret Hindle, Gladys Reeve, Rita Power, Vera Conway, Iain Walton, Ricci (Frederica) White, Maria Madalena Santana, Stephanie Grange, Roger Borthwick, Edith Graydon-Carter, Harold Chapman, Gordon William Lloyd, Harry Knight. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

Hospital Visits: If you or any member of your family is admitted to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital and would like to have a visit from a Catholic Priest, please inform a nurse on the ward and contact will be made through the Chaplaincy. If you are admitted to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in King's Lynn, please contact Fr. Peter Rollings at the Presbytery on 01553 772220. If you would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick before going into hospital, please contact Fr. Jay either by phone or by email.

Sick & Housebound [with GDPR Permissions] – Please pray for: Shirley Liebenhals, Derek Williams, Patsy Gray, Colette Barrow-Nessian, Betty Reavey, William Dunne, Pauline Buckland, Gretta Cummings, Katherine Vella, Pauline Organ, Kevin Pugh, Joy Bussey, Dorothy Edwards, Kath Borthwick.

Money Matters: Offering for last Sunday: Plate £331.01. Thank you.

Collection for Holy Land Shrines - There is a significant call for us to promote actively the Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land Shrines as we recognize its needs at this time.


The **Easter Sunday Collection** is traditionally an offering to your Priest.

For those who would like to make their regular offerings by Standing Order, the information you need is: Account name: **Catholic Church of Dereham**. The Sort Code is: **40-20-08** and the Account number is: **11311115**. If you are a tax payer, please also consider **Gift Aid**. **Gift Aid forms** are available at the back of church. This will help to maximize our donations in the Parish.

Friday Abstinence is dispensed during the Easter Octave.

Urbi et Orbi, Easter Sunday, BBC 1 11.00am - Live from St Peter's Square in Rome, on the eleventh Easter of his pontificate, Pope Francis gives his Easter message and blessing, Urbi et Orbi, to the city and to the world. Petroc Trelawny sets the scene.

Parish Events for the week 31st March – 6th April	
Sunday:	Children's Easter Egg Hunt – Presbytery garden after 1100 Mass
Wednesday: 1430	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – Emmaus Room. All welcome.
<i>Please Note: There is no Children's Sunday Liturgy, First Communion Class, Tuesday Youth Club or Friday Altar Servers Group meeting this week – all are on Easter Holiday</i>	
Friday Garden Club – Volunteers are asked to please contact Sonia on 07985 521578 for next gardening day.	

Pope Francis Prayer Intention for April 2024: For the Role of Women - Regardless of where you live in the world, gender equality is a fundamental human right. Advancing gender equality is critical to all areas of a healthy society, from reducing poverty to promoting the health, education, protection and the well-being of both girls and boys. There has been progress over the last decades, but there is still lots to do in order to achieve the UN gender equality goal by 2030. Pope Francis invites us to join his prayer intention “...that the dignity and worth of women be recognized in every culture, and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world.” 

Retreat Day for those Considering the Possibility of a Vocation to the Priesthood - A Day of Recollection for those thinking about priesthood is being held at the parish in Thetford on the **11th of May from 1030 to 1500**.

Baptism of Ezra and Isaac Reed - Notice for Baptism of Ezra and Isaac on the 7th April at the 1100 Mass as we welcome and support them as they are now part of the community.

Funeral Service of Frederick Lennox at St Faith Crematorium, Norwich on the 10th April at 1530. Our prayers of consolation are offered to the Lennox Family who are grieving in this moment of loss.

Friends of SJB: Talk on Cathedral Stained Glass Windows - A free event for Friends of SJB and will be delivered by the Heritage Officer Dr Richard Maguire on **Saturday 13th April 2024** at 1100. There will be a one-hour break for lunch and will resume at 1300 pm and finish at 2pm. Donations are welcomed.

Pentecost Sunday | Parish International Mass - On the 19th May at 1100 Mass, we shall be having the International Mass. We are encouraging all nationalities in the Parish to be acknowledged by signing up the form at the back, and if you would like to wear your national dress and bring your food to share for the reception afterwards, that would be great.



We thank all our parish volunteers for their help each week, including our florists for our Easter flowers decoration, our foodbank regular givers, Mass collection counters, church cleaners' team, and the greeters' guild.

Wishing everyone a very blessed and happy Easter.

~ Fr. Jay

