

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



### Doubt and Disbelief

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.

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 doubt isn't the same thing as disbelief. Doubt can be a good thing even. 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.

**Bitesize** – 'Every tomorrow has two handles. We can take hold of it by the handle of anxiety, or by the handle of faith.' ~*Author Unknown*



**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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## Sacred Heart & St Margaret Mary



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**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter (or of Divine Mercy)**  
 [Sundays Year B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Easter, Weekdays Year II, Psalter Week 2]

### MASSSES in the PARISH

<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April</b>	
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	+John Robinson ( <i>TB</i> )
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>
09.00 MASS	+Anne Gibney ( <i>PO</i> )
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	For the People of the Parish
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>The Annunciation of the Lord. Solemnity.</b>
10.00 Service of the Word & Holy Communion	
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Easter Feria</b>
10.00 MASS	+Kath Borthwick ( <i>TP</i> )
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Easter Feria</b>
10.00 MASS	
<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>St Stanislaus</b>
10.00 MASS & ADORATION	
<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Easter Feria</b>
- No Mass today	
<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Easter Feria</b>
18.00 <i>First MASS of Sunday</i>	For the People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>
09.00 MASS	
11.00 MASS <i>Live streamed</i>	

**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:** James Juby, Patrick Joseph Mullally, Consuelo Murphy, Ted Clark, Tom Brady, Cyril Byrne, Brigid Mary Murphy, Daniel Creamer. *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, Greta Cummings, Katherine Vella, Pauline Organ, Kevin Pugh, Joy Bussey, Dorothy Edwards.

**Money Matters:** Offerings by Standing Order for February: £2241, and March £2130. Thank you.

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.

<b>Parish Events for the week 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> April</b>	
Monday: 1400-1600	<b>Tea Buddies:</b> Monthly get-together for a friendly natter over a cuppa – Emmaus Room. All welcome. Every second Monday of the month. 
Wednesday: 1430	<b>Queen of Peace Prayer Group</b> – Emmaus Room. All welcome.
<b>Please Note:</b> <i>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>	
<b>Friday Garden Club</b> – Volunteers are asked to please contact Sonia on 07985 521578 for next gardening day.	

**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.**

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

**Funeral Mass of +Peter Knight at the Parish on 16<sup>th</sup> April at 1300.** Our prayers of consolation are offered to his bereaved wife, Marion.

**Our prayers of consolation to the Borthwick family for the passing on of +Kath Borthwick, may she rest in peace.** Details of the funeral arrangements to follow in the coming days.

**Our congratulations to Mila and Graham Frost** who will tie the ecclesiastical knot at the Parish on 4<sup>th</sup> May at 1430.

**The Easter joy** may not be complete without extending our thanks to all the volunteers who have given their time and talents for the success for the success of our Easter Triduum celebration. Also, Fr. Jay wishes to thank you for your generous Easter offering. Just to thank, also, our additional volunteers for other committees in the parish: Jo Hurst and Carlos d'Silva for gardening, Fiona Richardson and Catherine Carroll for the Counters, Maggie Delaney for seamstress, and Pete Clough for the parish website.

**Season of Easter** - Easter isn't just one day; it's a *season.* The fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost are celebrated in joyful exultation as one feast day, or better as one great Sunday. The gospel readings for the first three Sundays recount the appearances of the risen Christ. The readings about the Good Shepherd are assigned to the Fourth Sunday. On the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Sundays, there are excerpts from the Lord's discourse and prayer at the last supper.

**Pentecost Sunday | Parish International Mass** - On the **19<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers Training and Re-training** – Inviting the present Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers, or those who are interested in volunteering for these roles, to please attend the training day on **27<sup>th</sup> April 2024, 1430 – 1530 in the Church.** (Lectors are advised to come at least five minutes before Mass to prepare themselves to avoid reading the wrong readings.)

**Ordination to the Priesthood on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024** – Please include in your prayers Rev. Anthony Ashimuga for his upcoming ordination to the priesthood by Bishop Peter Collins at the Cathedral of St. John on 18<sup>th</sup> May at 1130.