

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER



**Finding Faith** - Poor old Thomas! Condemned to go down in history as 'Doubting Thomas,' for demanding proof of the risen Jesus. Yet how many of us would admit to a sneaking sympathy for Thomas? How many of us would have done exactly the same thing in his shoes? In our defence we come to the story from a slightly different angle to that of Thomas's; we come with a twenty first century agenda. We have been brought up in a culture where science rules the day and physical proof is all important. We live in a society

where belief in the spiritual is viewed as naive; eccentric even. Yet we are expected to believe.

The story of 'doubting Thomas' is comforting to our twenty-first century ears and perhaps that's what John, the gospel's writer, intended. Surely John must have known that faith, or lack of it, would be an issue especially for those without the benefit of first-hand evidence. So what are those of us who are struggling with our faith to take from this story?

The most important thing to notice is that Jesus doesn't condemn Thomas for not believing. He simply offers himself as proof. He helps Thomas to believe. Perhaps Jesus does not rebuke Thomas because he knows how much Thomas loves him, and how badly he wants to believe. Doubt might feel like a very negative emotion, but in actual fact, doubt is a sign that we are struggling to find answers and that has to be better than apathy or outright disbelief. Very often doubt is a prelude to firm faith. In fact, a faith besieged by doubt but based in a deep train of thought can be ultimately better than a faith built on little or no thought whatsoever.

In our struggle to find faith we should first take heed of today's story and acknowledge that doubt is 'normal' and not necessarily a bad thing. "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Jesus applauds those who have arrived at their faith, but for those of us who are still struggling we are promised the Holy Spirit to point us in the direction of a well-founded and enduring faith.

**Bitesize** - "I would rather have a mind opened by wonder than one closed by belief."  
~Gerry Spence



**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 Representatives:** Paul McIntee & Kate Meehan

## Sacred Heart & St Margaret Mary



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### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter (or Divine Mercy)

[Sundays Year C, 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Easter, Weekdays Year I, Psalter Week 2]

#### MASSES in the PARISH

##### Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April

18.00 *First MASS of Sunday*

For Peggy & George Mealy (GC)

##### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter (or Divine Mercy)

09.00 MASS

For the People of the Parish

11.00 MASS *Live streamed*

Luz Sudaria+ (MK)

##### Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April

St George, Patron of England. Solemnity.

- No Mass today

##### Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April

St Catherine of Siena, Patron of Europe

- No Mass today

##### Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April

Easter Feria

- No Mass today

##### Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May

Easter Feria

10.00 MASS (In Presbytery)

For Kurian & Lissy (Thanksgiving & Wedding Anniversary)

##### Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

St Athanasius

- No Mass today

##### Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

SS Philip & James

18.00 *First MASS of Sunday*

For the People of the Parish

##### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

09.00 MASS

Joy Bussey+ (GC)

11.00 MASS *Live streamed*

For Maria delos Angeles Coto Brenes (SS)

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Thursday after 10.00 Mass and Saturday at 17.30**

*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:** Fr. Guy (Vincent) Wace, Timothy Salter, Jose Antonio De Melo Pereira, Eddie Wilde, Roger Gerald Clancy, James Tinney, Mary Gatt, Sarah Courtney, Irene Barnes, David Horsburgh, Thomas Delahunt. *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, William Dunne, Pauline Buckland, Gretta Cummings, Katherine Vella, Pauline Organ, Pat Grout, George Mealy, Peggy Mealy, Richard Allison, Marion Ring-Davies, Patsy Thompson, Ann McWilliams, Diana Banks-Conney, Margaret Glendon-Doyle, Mila Kaunaite, Elaine Wilkes, Anne Sibley.

**Money Matters:** The Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land Shrines amounted to £139.53. Thank you.

**A Word of Thanks** - Fr. Jay wishes to express his gratitude to everyone for their generous Easter Offering, the thoughtful cards, the bottles of wine, and the many lovely gifts.

**Church Decoration | 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025** - Please be aware that starting on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> April, the redecoration of the Church begins. Please note there is no weekday Mass **except on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> May, when Mass will be at 1000 in the Presbytery.** Thank you for your patience.

**Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025** – Today is kept as a Day of Prayer for God's blessing on human work. This week the Church asks us to pray for those looking for work, for those who feel underemployed or undervalued, and for those in jobs where they feel pressured or trapped. We are also asked to pray for the fruits of work and for the stewardship of creation.

**Parish Meeting is moved to 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 1900** as Fr Jay is away on 7<sup>th</sup> May.

Diary for the week Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> April – Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	
Sunday: 1100 Mass	<b>Children's Liturgy</b> – Resumes today <i>for children in Yr1 to 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion age.</i>
Monday: 1900-2030	<b>AA Group Meeting</b> - Emmaus Room
Wednesday: 1430	<b>Queen of Peace Prayer Group</b> – Emmaus Room. All welcome.
Wednesday: 1900-2000	<b>RCIA Group – In the Presbytery</b>

Diary for the week Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> April – Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	
Thursday: 1730-1830	<b>First Communion Class</b> – Emmaus Room
<b>Parish Garden Club</b> – To volunteer, please contact Sonia on 07985 521578.	



**Film Showing: The Wild Robot (2024) on Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> April at 1900** - Join us in the Emmaus Room for the showing of The Wild Robot — a light-hearted animation with plenty of food for thought. A gentle, reflective way to continue the Easter journey together.



We thank all our many parish volunteers and groups for their help each week in supporting the running and daily and spiritual life of the parish.



**Requiescat in pace,  
Papa Franciscus (1936 – 2025)**

*Thank you for all your works, in Christ.*

#### Prayer for Francis

O God, faithful rewarder of souls, grant that your departed servant Pope Francis, whom you made successor of Peter and shepherd of your Church, may happily enjoy for ever in your presence in heaven the mysteries of your grace and compassion, which he faithfully ministered on earth. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

Eternal rest, grant unto him O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon him.  
May he rest in peace.  
Amen.

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God rest in peace.  
Amen.