

Reflection for the 3rd Sunday of Easter

Sunday, 26th April 2020

If you do not have a copy of the missalette, you can find today's readings at www.universalis.com

The principle resurrection story in the gospel of Luke is the account of the two disciples getting out of Jerusalem and heading to Emmaus on Easter Sunday morning. A word, first of all, about the way in which Luke organises his material.

By the time the gospels were written down, the individual stories about the life of Jesus were well known, but people had forgotten the order in which they happened. The gospel writers gathered together these stories, but then arranged them in the order they thought fit. For example, in the gospel of Mark, the stories are arranged by theme – so all the stories to do with seeds are gathered together in Chapter 4. It is unlikely that Jesus told these parables one after another, but this seemed to Mark to be the best way of organising them. John's gospel, on the other hand, organises the events around the visits Jesus made to Jerusalem to celebrate the different feasts in the Jewish liturgical calendar. Each evangelist had his own way of putting the teachings and stories about Jesus into some sort of logical (or should I say *theological*) order.

Now back to Luke. His gospel is a journey. It starts with Jesus in the north of the country, where he grew up, was baptised and started his ministry in Capernaum. The rest of the Gospel is a journey to Jerusalem, which he entered in glory on Palm Sunday, was crucified on Good Friday and rose from the dead on Easter Sunday. The subtitle of the gospel could be: "From Nazareth to Calvary".

Incidentally, Luke's second volume – the Acts of the Apostles – also has a geographical ordering. It begins in Jerusalem with the coming of the Holy Spirit, then spreads out to the rest of the world, finishing with Paul under house arrest in Rome continuing his ministry by writing letters and receiving visitors. Luke was fond of his geographical motif. Through it he was able to put order into the actions of God as they unfolded in Jesus Christ (volume one, the gospel) and the Holy Spirit (volume two, the Acts of the Apostles).

So the two disciples leaving Jerusalem on Easter Sunday morning cuts across the geographical framework of Luke. It was, theologically, the wrong thing to do. They should have stayed there until they had received the Holy Spirit. However, Jesus comes alongside them and accompanies them on their journey. Though their hearts burn within them, they do not recognise that it is Jesus. It is only at the *breaking of the bread* that they work out who their travelling companion was. They head straight back to join the others in the upper room.

During this period of lockdown we have time on our hands. It might be a good idea to use some of this time to reflect on our lives, and especially to reflect on how Jesus has been accompanying us on our journey. Think about the moments when your *heart has burnt within you*. When you have taken a wrong turning and gone down a blind alley. When the Lord has gently called you back and set you on the right path again.

As we reflect on our own lives, it does not matter whether we get all of our experiences in a correct chronological order. Instead, we need to place them in a correct *theological* order as we journey towards our goal. This will help us make sense of who we are and who we have become.

One of the things we all miss during this time of lockdown is being able to gather for the celebration of Mass: *the breaking of the bread*. As we take part in a televised Mass, or prayerfully read through the missalette, we can make a *Spiritual Communion*. Here we imagine the time when we made our First Holy Communion, the many times we have received during our lifetime, and what it will be like when we are able to receive the Lord again. This can give us deep spiritual nourishment and lasting peace.

Finally, let me emphasise once more the important apostolate of praying for others. From our homes we can pray for those in need at this time. For this, be still before the Lord and let others come into our mind. Think about each one for a moment and consider their needs, then present them to the Lord and let go. Perhaps another person who needs our prayers will come to mind. Think about each one, pray for them and entrust them to the Lord's gentle care.

St Peter's/St Joseph's Bidding Prayers

25th / 26th April 2020

Priest:

Today we hear about the disciples making a journey to Emmaus. We can think of our own journey in life and remember all those we need to pray for today.

Reader:

We pray for our political leaders. The decisions they make affect the lives of many: May the Lord inspire them to act always for the good of all.

Lord in your mercy.

We pray for those who are battling against the “secret enemy”: May they care for each individual as they would care for Jesus himself.

Lord in your mercy.

We pray those suffering from loneliness: May the Lord be close to them, console them, and show them his love.

Lord in your mercy.

We pray for those who have lost their way in their journey through life: May the Lord gently lead them back onto the right path.

Lord in your mercy.

We commend to the loving mercy of God those who have died recently, especially the many who have succumbed to the virus. We pray also for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: May they all rest in the peace of the Lord.

Lord in your mercy.

As the disciples walked along the road their hearts burnt within them: Let us remember the moments when we have felt especially close to the Lord.

[After a pause]

Lord in your mercy.

Mary was overjoyed to see her son again after the resurrection: We ask her to intercede with her Son that our prayers be heard.

Hail Mary....

Priest:

We have made our prayers, trusting in God's goodness. We present them to the risen Lord Jesus, for he lives now and forever.

Amen.

ST PETER'S CHURCH

(with St Joseph's, Hurst Green)

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26th April 2020

THE NEWSLETTER

3rd Sunday of Easter (Year A)

Mass Schedule for this week

Fr Tim will offer a private Mass each day for the following intentions

Date	Time	Fr Tim's Private Mass Intention	Feast
Sa 25 th		John Cranshaw L (Guild member)	Vigil of 3 rd Sunday of Easter (Yr A)
Su 26 th		For the parish	3 rd Sunday of Easter (Yr A)
M 27 th		Private Intention	St Peter Canisius SJ, PD
T 28 th		John Gidlow L	Weekday in the Easter Season
W 29 th		Fredrick Steyn L	St Catherine of Siena, VD
Th 30 th		For SMH	Weekday in the Easter Season
F 1 st May		Elizabeth Brown	St Joseph the Worker

(No Holy Hour or Benediction until further notice.)

L = Lately Dead, A = Anniversary of Death, R = Remembrance

M = Martyr, V = Virgin, B = Bishop, Pp = Pope

P = Personal Intention, S = Sick, B = Birthday F = Founders Mass

D = Doctor, P = Priest, R = Religious

Please pray for the following, the anniversary of whose deaths occur at this time: Jasper Isaac Wilkinson, Francis Aloysius Holden, Barbara Worthington, James Hunt, Fr Bernard Magill SJ and Francis Marsland. *May they rest in peace.*

Readings at Mass

	3 rd Sunday of Easter (Yr A)	4 th Sunday of Easter
First	Acts 2; 14, 22 - 33	Acts 2; 14, 36 - 41
Second	I Peter 1; 17 - 21	I Peter 2; 20 - 25
Gospel	Luke 24; 13 - 35	John 10; 11 - 18

Diocesan Website:

<http://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk>

for information on our Diocese and what is happening.

Praying with the Pope in April 2020

We pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and comforted.

Look at www.ThePopeVideo.org for more information



*They recognized him
in the breaking of the bread*

As most people are under lockdown, this newsletter is being put through the letter box of every Catholic house in the village. Those living further afield who come regularly to our church will receive it by post. I hope you find it of some use with your prayers at this time. Together with other resources, it is also available on line at the parish website and in the parish resources box by the Cenotaph.

Corona Virus Latest

All churches and chapels remain closed for the time being. We look forward to reopening! Fr Tim says a private Mass each day. If you have an intention for one of these Masses, please let him know.

Fr Tim's availability

Each day Fr Tim will be in the Parish Office from 9am to 10am and available on the parish number (01254 826268).

At other times, leave a message on the parish answer machine, which will be responded as soon as possible.

A daily prayer sheet is now available on-line.

Regular activities are suspended:

All of our regular parish activities are put on hold for the moment. We hope to connect people to say the Rosary on line during the month of May. Traditionally we say the rosary every Wednesday evening during May from the house of a parishioner in the village. We can't do this physically this year, but we will try and do this electronically. If you would like to try this, send Fr Tim your e mail address and he will send you a link so that you can join a Zoom meeting he is setting up for this purpose.

Resources for children

There are lots of resources for Children – try googling “Children’s Liturgy Third Sunday of Easter” and choose something relevant to your age group. It’s important we remember the young ones.

Live Streaming of Mass

Many people have been able to find a Mass on line. Jesuit parishes that do this are Farm Street, Southall and the Oxford Chaplaincy. You can also try www.churchservices.tv.

Buddies

The “buddies” system seems to be working well. Knowing that someone will call every day is a great way to combat loneliness. If you need a buddy, or help with anything else, please contact Fr Tim!

Today

Is the Third Sunday of Easter. The Gospel story is the account of the disciples on the road to Emmaus who encounter the risen Lord Jesus. Fr Tim will be celebrating his private Mass at 5.30pm on Saturday in St Peter’s and 9.30am on Sunday in St Joseph’s.

Weekly Newsletter

As long as lockdown continues, we will continue to send out 25 newsletter by post and deliver about 100 around the village. It is also available on the parish website. Last week it had 125 hits on line! If you would like to be added to the distribution list, let Fr Tim know.

Weekday Prayer sheet

There is a sheet with the readings of each day and a brief reflection available on the parish website and in the Parish Resources box by the Cenotaph (average of 10 copies taken each day!). A chance to keep in regular touch with the Lord.

Next Sunday

Is the 4th Sunday of Easter. In the Gospel Jesus uses the image of the sheep gate as a means of access to the fold. Through Jesus we find our way to the Father. It is the day when we pray especially for vocations to the priesthood.

Foodbank

Lucy Hardwick wishes to thank parishioners for their continuing generosity towards the foodbank she manages in Accrington. Thanks too to Lucy and David Harrison who manage this from boxes outside their house. It is a great help to those most in need at the moment.

News from the Westminster Diocese

Sadly the Westminster Diocese in London has lost 7 priests to the coronavirus. One was a priest in my home parish. Please keep them in your prayers. Here in the Salford Diocese we have not lost any so far. We count our blessings.