

St Thomas More – Parish Newsletter

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SUNDAY 23RD APRIL THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (Year A)

A Commentary on Sunday's Gospel Reading.

Pope Benedict XVI Regina Coeli Address, St Peter's Square, 6 April 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Gospel of this Sunday - the Third of Easter - is the famous account of the disciples of Emmaus (cf. Lk 24: 13-35). It tells the tale of two followers of Christ who, on the day after the Sabbath or the third day after his death, were leaving Jerusalem sad and dejected, bound for a village that was not far off called, precisely, Emmaus. They were joined on their way by the Risen Jesus but did not recognise him. Realising that they were downhearted, he explained, drawing on the Scriptures, that the Messiah had to suffer and die in order to enter into his glory. Then entering the house with them, he sat down to eat, blessed the bread and broke it; and at that instant they recognised him but he vanished from their sight, leaving them marvelling before that broken bread, a new sign of his presence. And they both immediately headed back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples of the event.

The locality of Emmaus has not been identified with certainty. There are various hypotheses and this one is not without an evocativeness of its own for it allows us to think that Emmaus actually represents every

place: the road that leads there is the road every Christian, every person, takes. The Risen Jesus makes himself our travelling companion as we go on our way, to rekindle the warmth of faith and hope in our hearts and to break the bread of eternal life. In the disciples' conversation with the unknown wayfarer the words the evangelist Luke puts in the mouth of one of them are striking: "We had hoped..." (Lk 24: 21). This verb in the past tense tells all: we believed, we followed, we hoped..., but now everything is over. Even Jesus of Nazareth, who had shown himself in his words and actions to be a powerful prophet, has failed, and we are left disappointed. This drama of the disciples of Emmaus appears like a reflection of the situation of many Christians of our time: it seems that the hope of faith has failed. Faith itself enters a crisis because of negative experiences that make us feel abandoned and betrayed even by the Lord. But this road to Emmaus on which we walk can become the way of a purification and maturation of our belief in God. Also today we can enter into dialogue with Jesus, listening to his Word. Today too he breaks bread for us and gives himself as our Bread. And so the meeting with the Risen Christ that is possible even today gives us a deeper and more authentic faith tempered, so to speak, by the fire of the Paschal Event; a faith that is robust because it is nourished not by human ideas but by the Word of God and by his Real Presence in the Eucharist.

This marvellous Gospel text already contains the structure of Holy Mass: in the first part, listening to the Word through the Sacred

Scriptures; in the second part, the Eucharistic liturgy and communion with Christ present in the Sacrament of his Body and his Blood. In nourishing herself at this two-fold table, the Church is constantly built up and renewed from day to day in faith, hope and charity. Through the intercession of Mary Most Holy, let us pray that in reliving the experience of the disciples of Emmaus every Christian and every community may rediscover the grace of the transforming encounter with the Risen Lord.

Family Event

A group of parents with young families are in the process of organising a Family Day in the parish ground floor hall and garden on Sunday 21st May starting at 12.30pm, after the 11am Mass. Everyone is welcome, including children of all ages. Tea/coffee and drinks for children will be provided, but please bring your own lunch/snacks. We hope this will be a great way for families of the parish to meet and get to know each other.

Kindly RSVP to dominik@nagly.eu if you intend to attend, mentioning how many adults and children will be joining.

Seminar: Understanding yourself in today's world

In June we shall be hosting a seminar over two days with this title. It is billed as "A Reflection on Faith, Science and the Human Person", led by Dr James Navarro, a Philosophy Lecturer with plenty of experience of explaining philosophical ideas to the general public. It will take place from 3pm to 5.45pm on 17 and 18 June. For more information please pick up a flyer from the back of the church.

Magnificat — April

The April *Magnificat* (£5) is still available to buy. Please ask Maggie, or one of the priests for copies.

Gift Aid and Planned Giving

The boxes of envelopes for the next tax year starting on 9th April are available to be collected. If there has been any change in your situation (new address, change in tax status, change of name), please kindly contact our Finance Officer, Yolaine, at: swisscottagefin@rcdow.org.uk as soon as possible.

If you are a UK Income or Capital Gains Taxpayer, please sign a Gift Aid Declaration and support our parish in this free, easy way (donating either via online transfers to the parish bank account, standing order, weekly envelopes or using the Contactless devices). Gift Aid means our parish can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you donate, at no extra cost to you. Thank you!

Young Adults Group

A group of young adults (between 21 and 30 years of age) have started a monthly social meeting with informal discussions about philosophical, anthropological and sociological questions related to the faith. These will generally take place monthly in the Parish Hall after the 6pm Sunday Mass. Please contact Fr Alvaro for further details: (alvaro.tintore@netherhall.org.uk)

Health and Safety Inspection

A health and safety inspection of the church and the church buildings took place on Thursday 20th April, for which the 10 am Mass was cancelled and the church needed to be closed during the day. Apologies to anyone who missed the announcements and came for Mass that day. The inspection may result in certain small changes, all of course are designed to ensure the safety of everyone who is present in the church or parish centre. If anyone would like to help with some of the health and safety checks which need to be carried out on a regular basis please speak with Fr Nicholas.

Retiring Collection for the Priests Training Fund

The annual Collection for the Priests Training Fund will take place next Sunday

30 April. That Sunday is called Good Shepherd Sunday and is a day when we pray for vocations to the priesthood. The fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. There are currently 48 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 14 of whom are from the Diocese of Westminster, plus two studying in Rome. Please pray for them. Last year 8 men who studied at Allen Hall were ordained to the priesthood to serve as our future priests. This fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your generous donation helps ensure the diocese can support these men who are called to be like Christ the Good Shepherd. Donation envelopes are available at the back of the Church . Please take one home, read the information and bring it back next weekend with your donation or simply give some money on the day.

Take Care

There have been a number of thefts in the streets around the church in recent weeks, so do be vigilant and look after your valuables when going to or away from the church.

I spent a few days in Rome after Easter. It is always a good opportunity to pray for the Church and the Pope and for everyone in the parish. I attended a congress on the outskirts of Rome which involved a lot of meetings and discussions, but with people attending from around the world it was an enriching experience to hear about the lives of fellow Catholics in other countries. We always learn a lot from each other.

While we continue the Easter season we are invited to continue to pray about Jesus' resurrection from the dead and to ask for the gifts of hope, optimism and joy, which are so much part of the Easter message.
Mgr Nicholas

REGINA CAELI

V. Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia;

R. For he whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.

V. Has risen as he said, alleluia;

R. Pray for us to God, alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia;

R. For the Lord is truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray.

O God, who by the Resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, granted joy to the whole world: grant, we beseech you, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, his Mother, we may lay hold of the joys of eternal life. Through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Third Sunday of Easter

23rd April – 29th April 2023

Tel: 020 7435 1388; <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/swisscottage/>

	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
SUN 23rd April THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (Readings. Year A)	9.30am Camillo de Castiglioni (RIP anniversary) 11am Mass Pat Gibson (intentions) 6pm Mass People of the Parish	The Church opens at 9.15am 10.30am Confessions 5.30pm Confessions
MON 24th April ST GEORGE, Martyr, Patron of England	7am Mass Måd Olsson-Wannefors (RIP) 10am Mass George William Moore (RIP)	The Church opens at 6.50am (Monday to Friday) entry via Church car park
TUE 25th April ST MARK, Evangelist	7am Mass Helen Birch (RIP) 10am Mass Margaret Meehan (intentions)	
WED 26th April Easter feria	7am Mass For Peace in Ukraine 10am Mass Kathy Tarling (intentions)	
THU 27th April Easter feria	7am Mass For the intentions of the Holy Father 10am Mass Peter Jebson (RIP)	
FRI 28th April St Peter Chanel, Priest & Martyr Friday abstinence	7am Mass Marie Sobotta Tabet (RIP) 10am Mass For the Priesthood and religious life	10am to Noon Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
SAT 29th April ST CATHERINE OF SIENA, Virgin & Doctor	10am Mass Miss D Perriere (intentions)	The Church opens at 9.30am

Prayer Intentions:

Recently deceased: Joseph Power; Ghislaine Williams; Helen Birch; Alice Hancock; Rita McNally; Mick Morris Tabet

Anniversary: Maroun Ramia; Iris Nally; Veronica O'Farrell; Peggy Attlee; Camillo de Castiglioni

Confessions:

Monday to Friday (before and after 10am Mass)

Saturday: before and after 10am Mass

Sunday: 10.30am and 5.30pm (before Mass)

Forthcoming Events:

18th May: THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

28th May: PENTECOST SUNDAY