

# *St Teresa & St John Southworth Churches, Cleveleys*

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## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER 26th April 2020

### GOSPEL *Luke 24: 13-35*

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side, but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. "All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people, and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all two whole days have gone by since it all happened, and some women from our group have astounded us, they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on, but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took bread and said the blessing, then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

3rd Sunday of Easter

Hope Springs Eternal - But Only If Uncurled

How often we have said, or thought, those words of the two disciples in this Sunday's Gospel - "Our own hope had been."

Our own hope had been that love would last or friendship get deeper; that illness would ease or death be delayed; that life would be enjoyable, comfortable.

But there have been disappointments - let-downs by friends, by family; promotions not found, success in exams not achieved, prayers not answered, love lost or not returned.

How do we get through this? The disciples had put their faith in Jesus, had invested much of their lives in him. Their disappointment blocked their faith in his resurrection - "Our own hope had been."

And yet those words of Jesus - "Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer. and so enter his own glory?" - also ring true in our own experience. Love, and growth, and fullness of life can be discovered even in disappointment. Even in the darkness of disappointment there are glimpses of light; and we know deep down that nothing except real love lasts.

Jesus vanished from their sight. But he left his presence, his warmth of love and peace with us, both as individuals and as a community, even though for the moment, by necessity, many of us are a community with some distance between us! But, we are still a community!!

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In the Sunday Bulletin during "normal times" we inform you of the deaths of any parishioners who have died recently, not only for your information but also so that you can pray for them and their families. So please kindly do so for Fred Porter and Tony Condron whose Funerals were last week, and Dorothy Baron and Terry McCafferty whose Funerals are next week.

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Mass for the Sick and their Families, NHS workers, and those working in Social Care : Please see the attached notification from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. Our own Bishop Paul adds that he will also be celebrating Mass each Thursday at 7pm in Lancaster Cathedral. Unfortunately it will not be possible to live-stream it, but it's important for people across the Diocese to know that it is taking place. Bishop Paul adds that after Mass he will then be back home in time to join in the clap for the NHS at 8 pm!

# CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

## **Mass for the Sick and their Families, NHS Front-Line workers and those working in Social Care**

The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales recognise that this time of the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting every person in our countries. Those who are sick, and their families, are suffering many hardships of isolation from contact with those they love. Our front-line workers in hospitals and in care homes all over our lands are giving exceptional service to those who are vulnerable at this time.

In order to show a spiritual solidarity with all those who are involved in the ways described above, each week from next Thursday, a Catholic Bishop will celebrate Mass in their Cathedral which will be live-streamed for people to join. This will take place **every Thursday at 7.00pm**

30 <sup>th</sup> April	Bishop Richard Moth	Arundel Cathedral
7 <sup>th</sup> May	Bishop Marcus Stock	Leeds Cathedral
14 <sup>th</sup> May	Bishop Robert Byrne CO	Newcastle Cathedral
21 <sup>st</sup> May	Bishop Mark Davies	Shrewsbury Cathedral
28 <sup>th</sup> May	Bishop Terence Drainey	Middlesbrough Cathedral

By visiting the Cathedral webpage, or the Bishops' Conference Webpage ([cbcew.org.uk](http://cbcew.org.uk)) links for the live-streaming of these Masses can be found.

Rev. Canon Christopher Thomas  
General Secretary

## **REFLECTIONS FOR THE COMING WEEK**

### **Monday (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)**

All that we rightly expect from God and pray for is to be found in Jesus Christ. The God of Jesus Christ has nothing to do with all that we, in our human way, think he can and ought to do. We must persevere in quiet meditation on the life, sayings, deeds, sufferings and death of Jesus in order to learn what God promises and what he fulfils. One thing is certain: we must always live close to the presence of God, for that is newness of life. Our joy is hidden in suffering, our life in death. But all through we are sustained in a wondrous fellowship, and that is the firm ground on which we stand.

### **Scripture (Luke 24: 21, 25-26, 30-32)**

*Whilst walking on the road to Emmaus, the two men said to him "Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free." Then Jesus said to them "You foolish men! So slow to believe all that the prophets have said! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer before entering his glory?" Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout scripture that were about himself. That evening, while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him. But he had vanished from their sight.*

### **Tuesday (Carlo Carretto)**

Is it not horrible to be born in a stable a few hours after the citizens of Bethlehem had refused to give lodgings to his mother who ran the risk of seeing her child die with cold in the night? Is it not horrible, men's treatment of Jesus during his life and in his death? Is Calvary not horrible? Well, Jesus' love transformed the horror of it into sublimity. His acceptance, his humility, his meekness changed the aspects of things and the most obscene chapter in history becomes the most beautiful, the most tender, the most grandiose, the most alluring, in which a dying God smiles on man who is killing him, and pardons him.

### **Scripture (Acts 2:14,22-24)**

*Then Peter stood up with the Eleven and said in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified and killed by men outside the Law. But God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power.*

### **Wednesday (Julian of Norwich)**

God is the still point at the centre. There is no doer but he. All this he showed me with great joy, saying, 'See, I am God. See, I am in all things. See, I do all things. See, I never take my hands off my work, nor ever shall, through all eternity. See, I lead all things to the end I have prepared for them. I do this by the same wisdom and love and power through which I made them. How can anything be done that is not well done?' God wants us to know that he keeps us safe through good and ill.

### **Scripture (Isaiah 55: 8-11)**

*My thoughts are not your thoughts and your ways are not my ways, declares the Lord. For the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from the sky and do not return before having watered the earth, fertilizing it and making it to grow to provide seed for the sower and food to eat, so it is with the word that goes from my mouth: it will not return to me unfulfilled or before having carried out my good pleasure and having achieved what it was sent to do.*

### **Thursday (A Carthusian)**

The future does not rest with us. The most we can do is accept trustingly his divine action, which is the expression of his love. We must not think so much about people, and things and events. We should look rather at Him Who with kingly power controls these shifting scenes, making them fit in according to the plan of his infinite love. We should steep ourselves more and more in this spirit of faith, which alone is reasonable and true. That is how God sees things. It is quite true that the world seems in a very bad way. How can we see love, where everything points the other way? We do not see it, we believe it. To believe is to see things in God's light.

### **Scripture (Daniel 2:19-22)**

*The mystery was revealed to Daniel and he blessed the God of heaven. This is what Daniel said: 'May the name of God be blessed for ever and ever, since wisdom and power are his alone. It is he who controls the procession of times and seasons, who makes and unmakes kings, who confers wisdom on the wise and knowledge on those with discernment, who uncovers depths and mysteries, who knows what lies in darkness; and light dwells with him.*

**Friday (Fr. Michael Ivens, SJ)**

Discernment is a function of the wisdom of Spirit. It can be broadly defined as the wisdom which enables a person to distinguish between what is and is not of the Spirit. As a gift of the Spirit, discernment needs specifically spiritual qualities. It needs an attitude of presence to God's word in all its mediations, and hence a sense of the Church and an openness to God's word in Scripture, prophecy, situations, events; and more particularly, discernment needs the inner knowledge of Christ that leads to the feel of his 'mind'. Where these latter qualities are to be found, the conditions for discernment are present.

**Scripture (1 Cor. 2: 5-8, 10)**

*To those who have reached maturity, we do talk of wisdom, not, it is true, a philosophy of this age or of the rulers of this age, who will not last long now. It is of the mysterious wisdom of God that we talk, the wisdom that was hidden, which God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. None of the rulers of the age recognized it; for if they had recognized it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. To us, though, God has given revelation through the Spirit, for the Spirit explores the depths of everything, even he depths of God.*

**Martin Bennett**