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Second Sunday of Easter, Year B

Receive the joy of your glory, giving thanks to God, who has called you into the heavenly kingdom, alleluia.

Ministers of the Word: Una & Robin; Joan & Rosie; Jeremy & Paul

Ministers of Communion: Tony & Mary; Rosa, Silvan & Pat M; Ian K & Nicky M

Eucharistic Prayer Preface II Preface of Easter I

No Organist this week

Please Pray for the Welfare of our Sick People and those who care for them

Ruth Wolseley, Moira McNulty, Marjorie Beard, Madeleine & Howard Goodman, Jeanne Wallace, Bridget Spencer, Catherine Blinman, Brian Harford, Steve Ebsworth,, Deborah Gilligan, Peter Knott, Hazel Coleman, Michael Clark and Peter Gibbons and family

OUR LADY OF LOURDES - PRAY FOR US

Please pray for families that are apart

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

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.

The Annunciation

Saying Yes to Jesus

9th April

At the Annunciation, Mary's consent was one of the most important moments in the history of salvation and in the unfolding of the Eucharistic mystery. We call that moment her 'fiat', the first word in a Latin phrase that means "Be it done unto me according to your word." When we say yes to God, we allow his grace to be fruitful. When we say no, we are missing big opportunities to be part God's picture.

CAFOD Match Funding Deadline

It might seem a bit of a distant memory, but it's not too late to donate to CAFOD's Lenten Fast Day Appeal. It's a three month appeal. Money raised in the three months from Shrove Tuesday 13th February, to Saturday 12th May, will be match funded by the UK Government. Donations raised by 12th May must then reach Romero House by Sunday 1 July at the latest to be matched. The UK Government will match donations up to an overall total of £5 million.

Care For Our Common Planet

Eco Tip for April

Grow your own food! It's nowhere near as complicated or time-consuming as it sounds, and it'll eliminate the Yeti-sized carbon footprint of all those refrigerated trucks and planes importing berries from South America. Cherry tomatoes, salad greens, and green beans are the best foods to grow if you haven't done this before. For those of us who don't have a garden, simply growing herbs on a windowsill can be very fulfilling.

Spring Clear-out for Charity

We've emerged from winter, the sun is struggling through, and the house is looking dusty and cluttered. Time for a spring clean! Before you start hiding things in the loft, give our charity shops a second thought. Charity shops are always looking for quality items, and passing on your unwanted gifts, books, and clothes is a great way of making money for charity. It's great for the environment too... far better than recycling!

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

**A FUTURE
FULL OF HOPE**

As the Father sent me, so I send you!

These words of the Risen Christ draw the disciples into a new mode of being. They are not simple followers any longer; they are touched and anointed by that outpouring of the Spirit to *be* the very mission of Jesus.

His work is now their work. As he was sent, so now he sends and they are to be caught up in continuing to proclaim Good News in all they do. His is a work of peace-bringing and of healing and forgiveness. And then we encounter Thomas who has to touch the wounds of Christ in order to believe. In that simple gestures of Thomas we are reminded of the mission to reach out and touch the woundedness of those around us and to leave them having encountered peace. May the wounds and brokenness of those we encounter this week know the healing balm of Christ's mercy and his compassion through us and through the peace we breath upon them.

POPE FRANCIS : his vision and our future

Lectures to take place

St John's Church, South Parade, Bath

Tuesday 24th April – Fr James Hanvey SJ –

Pope Francis and his vision for the Church of the 21st even the 22nd Century.

Tuesday 26th June – Austen Ivereigh reflects upon

Pope Francis, the Church of Mission and his call to evangelise.

Wednesday 19th September – Fr James Hanvey SJ –

Pope Francis and the future!

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

MAY 12th & 13th Saint James' Priory

A marriage encounter weekend to prepare engaged couples for marriage. The course is recognised and accepted as formal preparation for couples wishing to marry in the Catholic Church. Couples receive a certificate of attendance which is normally required by the priest who is officiating at their wedding. For more details please speak to Gail who has details in the office.

THIS WEEK**Proper of Season**

Saturday 7 th April	10.30 - 12noon 2.00pm - 4.00pm 5.30pm 6.00pm	Prinknash -Gospel of Luke See ad for further information. Prinknash – Connection between the tradition and the Bible. Mass – Newent Mass - Coleford	
Sunday 8 th April	9.00am 9.00am 11.00am 11.00am 2pm – 4pm	DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY Mass – Newent Mass – Cinderford Mass – Blaisdon Mass – Sedbury Divine Mercy at Prinknash Abbey Chapel.	Intention: People of this parish
Monday 9 th April	10am pm	Solemnity of the Annunciation of the LORD Mass with Fr John Fr John leaves for Ireland	
Tuesday 10 th April	10am	Mass with Fr Aidan Murray	
Wednesday 11 th April	10am	Mass with Fr Aidan Murray --- followed by coffee and chat. Reception of Elizabeth Gibbons	
Thursday 12 th April	10.45am 1pm	Requiem Mass for Elizabeth Gibbons – Fr Aidan Murray Cell group	
Friday 13 th April	10am	Mass with Fr Aidan Murray	
Saturday 14 th April	5.00pm 5.30pm 6.00pm	Reconciliation Mass Newent Mass Cinderford <i>Please welcome this weekend any people visiting TRAC from Youth in Christ</i>	Intention: People of this parish
Sunday 15 th		THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	

April		Collection for CLS Adoption Society	
	9.00am	Mass – Newent	
	9.00am	Mass – Cinderford	
	11.00am	Mass – Blaisdon	
	11.00am	Mass – Lydney	
	6.00pm	Taize at OLL	

—FR. CHRISTOPHER HARTLEY

from *A Priest Stands Up for Exploited Sugarcane Workers*

We need men and women who come motivated by love of Jesus Christ to work in his name, who come prepared to embrace the crucified Christ, who is in the face and the pain of every brother or sister who is suffering.



Next Week’s Readings: Acts 3:13-15; Ps4: 1Jn 2:1-5; Luke 24:35-48

Ministers of the Word: Ann S & Ann H; Mo & Julian; Clare & Mary

Ministers of Communion:

Craig & Kevin; Maria C, Maria G & Jenny H; Mary M & Kay S

Looking Forward

GOOD SHEPHERD CELEBRATION

22nd April 2018 3-4pm



As well as celebrating Jesus as the Good Shepherd it is also Vocations Sunday when we celebrate the priesthood and pray for vocations.

There will be songs, poems, and items for children, readings, music and entertainment followed by refreshments. Phone 01452 700478 Sarah Rowe if you would like to be part of this celebration.

A DAY WITH MARY

Saturday 28th April at Cathedral Church of SS Peter & Paul Clifton Park Bristol. See the noticeboard for more information.

COME AND S.E.E

Fr John talks about his faith journey and prayer.

May 3rd at 7.30pm come for Spiritual Enlightenment and Encouragement

PENTECOST RETREAT

“HOLINESS IS FOR NORMAL PEOPLE”

Led by Fr Aidan Murray

MAY 18th to 20th 2018 at Brownshill GL6 8AL. £85 for the weekend, £14 per day.

Jenny and Tom Heseltine 01989750665 or 07749478340

RESIDENTIAL WEEKEND RETREAT

Holy Angels and Divine Mercy Led by Fr Peter Prusakiewicz CSMA

21-23 September 2018 Belmont Abbey Hereford HR2 9RZ

Gail has leaflet and poster in the office if you want further information.

CLIFTON CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

The Annual Appeal takes place next weekend so please be as generous as you can. Your donations and support greatly contribute to their work finding families for children who need them and providing lifelong support to them once they are adopted. If you prefer, you can make a donation via your mobile by texting CCSA04£10 (or another amount) to 70070. They need to find many more adoptive families and would love to hear from anyone considering adoption.

For an informal discussion and free information pack please call CCS on 0117 935 0005. Social media users are asked to please like them on Facebook: CCS Adoption and follow them on

Twitter: @ccsadoption so that they can reach more potential adopters. Thank you.

200 CLUB WINNERS FOR MARCH

1	Barbara Minihane	34	£50
2	Barbara Minihane	129	£35
3	Chris Blunden	69	£25
4	Anne Swannell	167	£15
5	Helen Hunt	45	£10

CAFOD GAINS AGAIN

The Passover meal at Blaisdon held on Wednesday 28th received £237 in donation which will hopefully be doubled by the government.

COLLECTION FOR MARCH

The collection for weekend 18/3/18, (heavily affected by snow), was £110.

The collection for weekend 25/3/18 was £269-47.

Bath Deanery have organised a day at the Bath Apex Hotel **on Saturday 21st April** called '**We Are Called... How Are We To Respond?**' It is a day very much focussing on our Diocese theme of Mission. The day will be led by **Michelle Moran, a leading Catholic lay woman**, who has been especially appointed by Pope Francis to work on establishing new structures for the service of Mission in the Church.

(This day has been rescheduled from 2nd March due to the weather.)

The ticket includes refreshments on arrival and a light lunch. The day begins at 10am and finishes at 3:30pm and cost £10.

I will arrange for a coach (a contribution to the cost of the coach please)

First pick up - St Peter's RC High School - 8:20am

(Tickets must be purchased on a non-refundable basis prior to the event)

Please let Mandy Baker know no later than 15th April as they need the numbers for catering purposes. (Mandy – email mandybaker@live.co.uk)

8 Day Pilgrimage to The Holy Land 2019. 21st – 28th Feb. '19 8 Days / 7 Nights. See the Gospel come to life by following the footsteps of Jesus in the Holy Land. From Galilee to Jerusalem, you will find yourself immersed in spirituality and culture. This beautiful, tried and tested itinerary promises to bring the faithful pilgrim an unforgettable experience, including a non-stop return flight from London to Tel Aviv airport, a touring coach and professional local guide, as well as en-suite accommodation at the 4* Hotel in Nazareth and 3* Star Hotel in Bethlehem. Spiritual Leader, Fr Stephen Squires To book contact All Saints Travel on 0800 6127975 Father Stephen Tel. 01386 552737

DEADLINE OF BOOKING AT THIS PRICE: 15th APRIL 2018