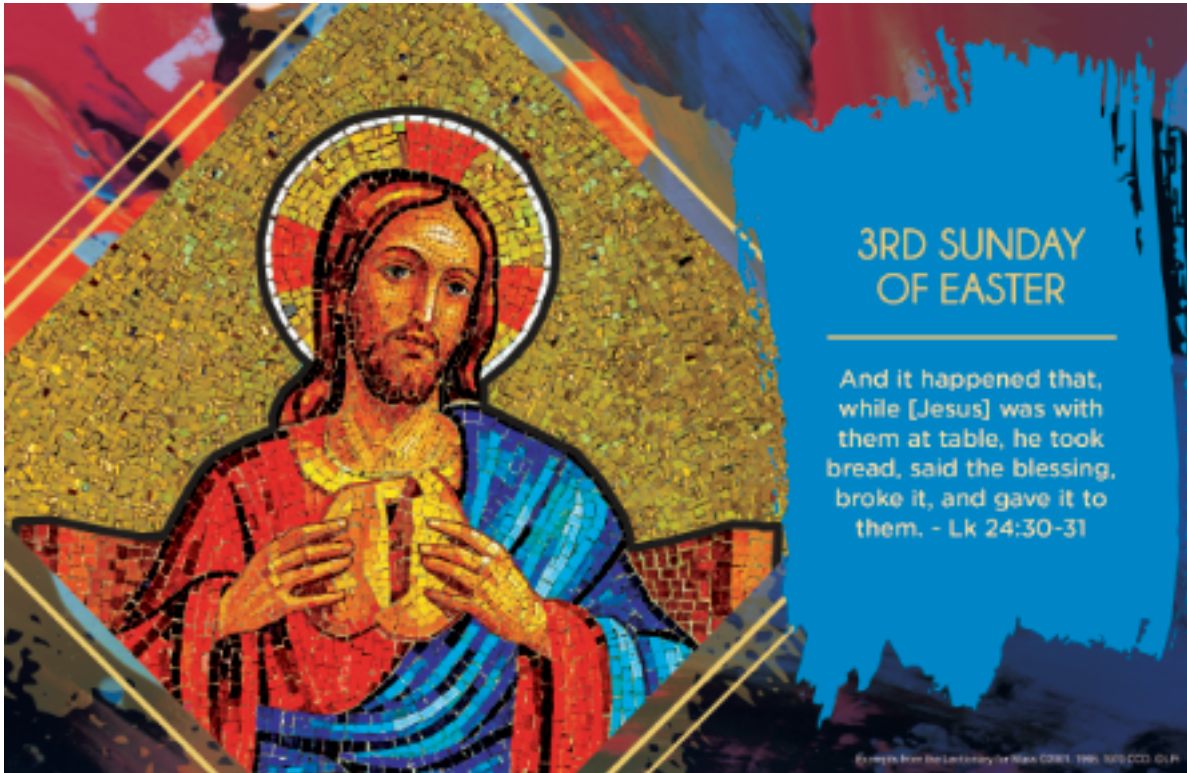




parish newsletter

23 April 2023 | Third Sunday of Easter (A)

They recognised him in the breaking of bread



Father John Muir

I always feel a little sad when someone begins to speak to me with the words, "Father, I know you're so busy, but ..." It happens a lot. And I get it. He or she is trying to be respectful of my time. But it saddens me because a priest makes Jesus present to people in a special way, and Jesus always has time for us. Don't we all feel at times that God just doesn't have time for us?

Nonsense. Just look at the stunning "Road to Emmaus" story we hear this week. It's the day Jesus rose from the dead. And the Risen One appears in disguise to two disciples. He walks with them, chats with them, and eventually eats with them. It could have been hours he spends

with them — two unnamed persons — in the middle of nowhere. On the day he rose from the dead!

My friends, please take this to heart: The Risen Jesus is not too busy to spend time with you! He doesn't have "better things to do." You and I are members of this crucified and risen Body. He therefore has all the time in the world to be with us. So, I challenge you this week to approach him confidently in prayer and conversation. After all, being with you and me is the reason he rose from the dead.

The Word of God this Week

The Third Sunday of Easter is a time for us to reflect on the joy and hope that comes with the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The readings for this Sunday offer us a message of comfort, assurance, and hope, reminding us that we are never alone on our journey of faith and that the risen Christ is always present among us.

The first reading, from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:14, 22-33), tells us about Peter's speech to the people of Jerusalem, reminding them that Jesus, who was crucified and buried, was raised from the dead by God. Peter explains that this event was foretold by the prophets, and it is a sign of God's love and mercy for his people.

The second reading, from

the first letter of Peter (1 Peter 1:17-21), reminds us that our faith in Jesus Christ is precious and that it was bought at a great price. The letter encourages us to live our lives with reverence, knowing that we have been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ, who was raised from the dead.

The Gospel reading, from Luke (Luke 24: 13-35), tells the story of the two disciples who meet Jesus on the road to Emmaus. At first, they do not recognise him, but as he explains the Scriptures to them, their hearts burn within them. They invite him to stay with

them, and as he breaks bread with them, their eyes are opened, and they recognise him as the risen Lord.

The responsorial Psalm for this Sunday (Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11) is a song of trust and confidence in God's protection and guidance. The Psalmist expresses his confidence in the Lord, who has given him a secure and pleasant heritage. The Psalm reminds us that the Lord is always with us, even in times of trouble, and he will not abandon us to the power of death.

So, how can we live the message of these readings in our daily lives? First, we must

cultivate a deep and abiding faith in God's love and mercy, just as Peter tells us. This means taking time to pray and reflect on our relationship with God and seeking to deepen our understanding of the Scriptures and the teachings of the Church. We must also live our lives with reverence, knowing that we are no longer our own: we have been bought and paid for by the precious blood of Christ, as the first letter of Peter instructs us.

Second, we must be open to the presence of the risen Christ in our lives, as the Gospel story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus shows us. We must be willing to listen to his voice, to recognise him in the people we encounter, and to respond with

faith and trust when we do meet him.

Finally, according to the Psalmist, we must trust in God's protection and guidance. This means living our lives with confidence and trust in the Lord, knowing that he is always with us, even in times of trouble and even when we feel alone. God will not abandon us to the power of death.

The readings for the third Sunday of Easter offer a message of hope and encouragement, reminding us of the importance of faith in our lives and the presence of the risen Christ among us. As we continue on our journey of faith, the Word this week encourages us to deepen our relationship with God, to be open to the presence of the risen



Christ, and trust in God's protection and guidance. Above all, the Word says to us: always remember that you are



(Practising) Catholic

"I Am Not Afraid — I Was Born to Do This."

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Have you ever felt like you weren't doing the work you should be doing?

We have all had jobs that leave us feeling unfulfilled. Bored. Dreading the next day. We may even experience a sensation of unfamiliarity, of being unable to recognise ourselves.

Most of us have also been lucky enough to have a job that we love—a vocation, a calling that makes us look in the mirror and think, This. This is who I'm supposed to be. I

recognise this person.

For me, that work is the work of marriage and motherhood. The hours are terrible, the pay is even worse, and my coworkers are frequently disappointed in me—but it doesn't matter. When I look in the mirror every morning and see my tired, wrinkled face gazing back, choruses of "I said I don't want the BLUE SHIRT, MUMMY, ugh!" and "Honey, I've got an early meeting, I'm so sorry but I have to run," ringing in the background, I think to myself: I recognise

this girl. She was born to do this.

Christ's own disciples did not recognise him on the road to Emmaus. It wasn't until he took the bread and broke it that their eyes were opened, and they realised they had known it all along—"Were not our hearts burning within us?"

In that moment, Christ was doing the very work he was born to do, making the sacrifice.

I don't know what kind of vocation you are called to. I don't know what kind of work reveals your true self. But I



hope that whatever work you are doing, you can look in the mirror and feel your heart burning within you.

"He was made known to them in the breaking of bread."

— Luke 24:35

Live the Liturgy

It wasn't until Christ spoke the words of blessing over the bread that the eyes of the disciples were opened, and they saw him for who he was—God in flesh and blood before them. The Eucharist makes real what we otherwise would fail to see.



First Reading: “This man, delivered up by the set plan and foreknowledge of God, you killed, using lawless men to crucify him. But God raised him up.” (Acts 2: 23-24)	Psalm: Show us, Lord, the path of life. (Ps 15)	Second Reading: Conduct yourselves with reverence during the time of your sojourning, realising that you were ransomed with the precious blood of Christ as of a spotless unblemished lamb. (1 Pt 1:17-19)	Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Lord Jesus, explain the Scriptures to us. Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us. Alleluia!	Gospel: While he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognised him. (Lk 24:30-31)
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22 Saturday	6.00 VIGIL MASS St Cecilia's	Peter & Olive Swales (RIP)
23 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	8.00 Morning Prayer Mercy Chapel	
	9.00 MASS Convent	Patricia Rutter (RIP)
	10.30 MASS St Mary's	Kim Phung
	5.00 MASS St Mary's	People of the Parish
	5.00 Parish Pastoral Council Upper Room	
24 ST GEORGE, MARTYR	8.00 Morning Prayer Mercy Chapel	
	9.30 MASS Convent	Christopher White (RIP)
	12.05 MASS St Mary's	Ints of Caroline Rose
	12.45 Chaplet of Divine Mercy St Mary's	
	5.15 Evening Prayer Mercy Chapel	
	6.30 Catholicism: Pivotal Players Upper Room	
25 Saint Mark, Evangelist	8.00 Morning Prayer Mercy Chapel	
	9.30 MASS Convent	Ints of Sr Fidelista
	12.05 MASS St Mary's	Barbara Parker (RIP)
	1.00 Over 60s St Mary's Catholic Centre	
	4.30 Chaplaincy Tuesday Upper Room	
26 Wednesday	8.00 Morning Prayer Mercy Chapel	
	9.30 MASS Convent	Sheila Ward (RIP)
	12.05 REQUIEM MASS St Mary's	Elizabeth Gladys Baister
	4.00 Confirmation Class St Mary's Catholic Centre	
	5.15 Evening Prayer Mercy Chapel	
27 Thursday	8.00 Morning Prayer Mercy Chapel	
	9.30 MASS Convent	Ints of Sr Adrienne
	10.00 Open House St Mary's Catholic Centre	
	Confessions St Cecilia's	
	10.30 MASS St Cecilia's	James & Agnes Mullen (RIP)
	12.05 MASS St Mary's	C J Thomas (RIP)
28 Friday	8.00 Morning Prayer Mercy Chapel	
<i>Saint Peter Chanel, Priest, Martyr or Saint Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort, Priest</i>	9.30 MASS Convent	Ints of Anne Lavin
	12.05 MASS St Mary's	Stephen Garbutt (RIP)
	12.45 Holy Rosary St Mary's	
	5.15 Evening Prayer Mercy Chapel	
29 Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor	8.00 Morning Prayer Mercy Chapel	
	10.30 Confessions Mercy Chapel	
	11.00 MASS St Mary's	Ellen Noble née Bogie (RIP)
	11.45 Confessions Mercy Chapel	
	6.00 VIGIL MASS St Cecilia's	Terry Murton (RIP)
30 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	8.00 Morning Prayer Mercy Chapel	
	9.00 MASS Convent	Ints of Sr Adrienne
	10.30 MASS St Mary's	Pauline Farina (RIP)
	5.00 MASS St Mary's	People of the Parish



Bernie, Craig, Veronica, Joe, Mary, Vicky, Marjorie

If you would like a name put on the list please let us know.



Peter Septimus Swales, Patricia McGonnell, Bridget Brewster, Elizabeth Gladys Baister, Norah Flanagan

Announcements

Coronation of HM the King
On Saturday, 6 May we're changing the Mass time because of the Coronation. The 11 a.m. Mass will be celebrated at 9 a.m. There will not be confessions before Mass, but confession will be available after.

Exam Invigilators
St Aidan's are looking for people to serve as examination invigilators. If you think you can help with this, please contact the deputy head, Mrs Whitten: anne-marie.whitten@staca.co.uk

First Holy Communion
Over the next few weeks we'll be celebrating first holy communion for many of our young parishioners at the Vigil Mass in St Cecilia's and the 10.30 in St Mary's.

Thanks you in a special way to the catechists and teachers at St Mary's Primary School who have helped prepare these young people for their first reconciliation and first holy communion.

Irish Afternoon
There will be an Irish afternoon in St Mary's Hall on

Tuesday, 9 May after the lunchtime Mass. Refreshments are available and everyone is welcome.

Walsingham Pilgrimage
If you are interested in going to Walsingham on pilgrimage from 8–10 September please call Therese Ivory on 0191 553 3747.

Retired and Sick Priests
Starting last Sunday, and continuing for a few weeks, there will be a retiring collection for the sick and retired priests of the diocese of Hexham & Newcastle.



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Fr Christopher Hancock MHM • Parish Priest • christopher@sunderlandcatholic.com
Fr Emmanuel Nuh Mbeh MHM • Assistant Priest • emmanuel.mbeh@diocesehn.org.uk
Rev Eddy Barker • Parish Deacon

Rebecca Leighton • Lay University Chaplain • rebecca@sunderlandcatholic.com
Canon Alec Barrass • Bishop Séamus Cunningham



Questions for the Week

First Reading: Peter's first public speech in Jerusalem focuses on Jesus' connection to King David. In other words, Peter spoke of God's fidelity

to Israel in Jesus' resurrection from the dead. What would you like to know about Jesus' Jewish roots?

Second Reading: Peter encourages his community to "conduct yourselves with reverence during the time of your sojourning" (life on earth). How might you show respect to others this week?

Gospel: We hear how the two disciples on the road to Emmaus finally recognised the risen Jesus in the blessing and breaking of the bread. What helps you recognise the presence of Jesus in your life?

Why do we do that?



Question: What are the requirements for being a confirmation sponsor?

Answer: Although many dioceses have specific requirements for who can be a sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Code of Canon Law identifies certain requirements that are true for all dioceses and parishes. First, the sponsor should be chosen by the one to be confirmed (or, in some cases, by the parents or even the pastor). Second, a sponsor must be at least sixteen years old (unless the local bishop has chosen another age, or a special exception has been made). Third, the sponsor must be a Catholic who has been confirmed and who has already received the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Beyond this, they must lead "a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken

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on." Fourth, they can have no sort of canonical penalty or impediment. Finally, they cannot be either the father or mother of the one to be confirmed (See Canons 893, §1 and 874, §1).

In some cultures, it is customary for one of the confirmand's godparents to act as sponsor, although this is not required by Church law.

To learn about the requirements for your parish or diocese, you can consult your pastor or your parish or diocesan director of religious education or the diocese's

office liturgy and worship.

Saint of the Week



life. Maria was so attracted to the religious life that she entered the Servants of Mary, Ministers to the Sick as a postulant as soon as she turned 16. Even as a child she was known to have deep devotion to Jesus.

Since the Servants of Mary didn't have any houses for formation in Puerto Rico, Maria had to begin her postulancy in Madrid. After four years she was transferred to Cuba where under her new name, Maria Soledad, she took her perpetual vows on April 30, 1921. She remained in Havana and in 1929 she became the Secretary and Conciliar of the Congregation of the Servants of Mary. After 10 years in that position, she became Mother Superior of a couple of different houses fol-

Venerable Maria Consuelo Soledad Sanjurjo Santos was born in Puerto Rico on November 15, 1892. By the time she was nine years old both of her parents had passed away. Extended family then placed her and her sister Antonia in a boarding school run by the Servants of Mary, Ministers to the Sick. It was there that she grew up and spent her adolescence, befriending and learning from the Sisters about their way of

lowing which she was appointed the Provincial Superior of the Antilles which included Haiti, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic.

Now, leading the Servants of Mary in the Caribbean, Mother Maria Soledad set her heart on scaling up the apostolic work they were doing in that area of the world. She founded communities for the Sisters all over the islands. She especially hoped to begin a noviciate program in her home island, Puerto Rico, so when young women wanted to enter into the congregation they wouldn't have travel, like she did, to Madrid first. This hope was realised in 1954 upon the opening of a noviciate in Ponce, Puerto Rico.

After 40 years of serving at her congregation's headquarters in Cuba, Mother Maria Soledad moved the Provincial

House of the Servants of Mary to Puerto Rico in 1962. Cuba had become unstable, and she concluded that it would be safer for the Sisters to continue their work with education and with the sick from a Provincial capital in Puerto Rico instead. Following a heart attack, she completed her time as Provincial Superior in 1966 and went on to embrace a simple life of love of God and service to her congregation. She spent her time focusing on sewing clothes for her sisters, daily prayer, and assisting the sick.

After 62 years of consecrated life, Mother Maria Soledad died on April 23, 1973, in San Juan and was recognised for her heroic virtue by Pope Francis on January 15, 2019, and named Venerable. She is now one step away from beatification.

Flock Notes

How can we be sure that the bread and wine actually become the body and blood of Christ? The answer is quite simple: the priest breaks the bread during the *Lamb of God* and in that moment we know it is Jesus.

As for the disciples on the road to Emmaus, Jesus breaks the bread for us at every Mass, and like those disciples, that is when we know he is truly present, even if our eyes only see broken bread.

The gospel today is structured just like every Mass. First Jesus speaks to the disciples about the scriptures, he

shows them where he can be found in them. This is what we do in the Liturgy of the Word, when we listen to Jesus proclaim the readings to us.

Then the two disciples gathered around the table with him. He took bread, blessed it and broke it. This is what we do during the Liturgy of the Eucharist during Mass: we gather round the altar and Jesus breaks bread for us.

When we come to Mass Jesus comes and walks with us just like he did on the road to Emmaus.

