

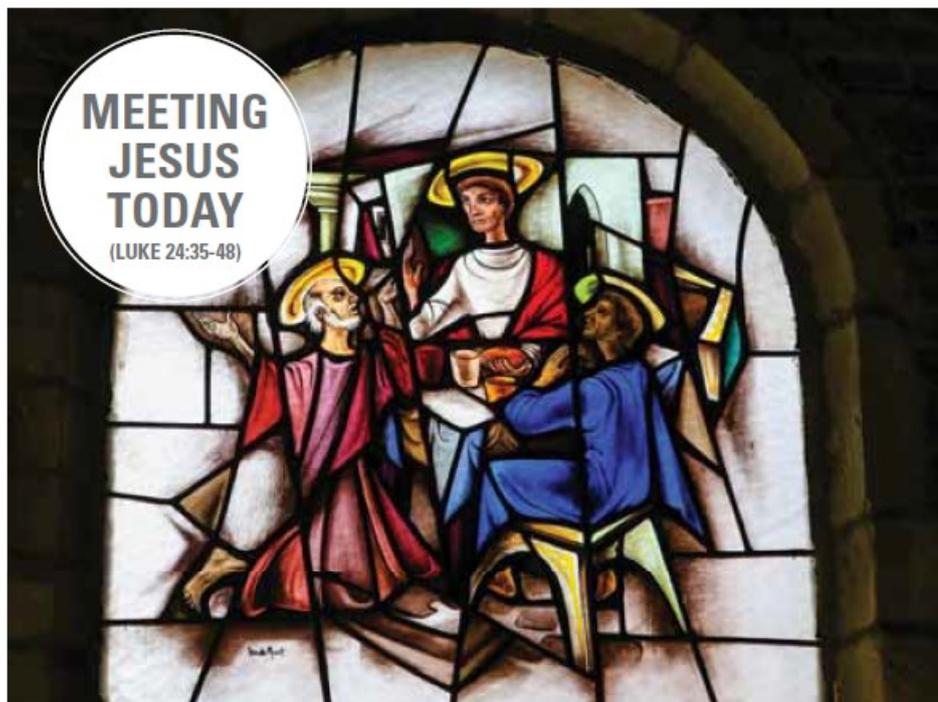
18 APRIL 2021

Sunday Message

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE WORD

Year B • Psalter Week 3



MEETING JESUS TODAY

(LUKE 24:35-48)

Stained glass window in the fifteenth-century Elzenveld Chapel in Antwerp, Belgium, depicting Jesus and two disciples at Emmaus

Our Gospel passage follows the encounter of the two disciples with the risen Jesus on the way to Emmaus and his making himself known to them in a setting with a Eucharistic background.

The episode today echoes last Sunday's reading from John, in which Jesus makes himself present to the group of disciples in Jerusalem. Cleopas and his possibly female companion have to return to the holy city, because that is the place where God's plan of redemption is to be worked out and, as yet, it is not completed: that will come with Pentecost.

The appearance of Jesus emphasises that he is the same person as was crucified and laid in the tomb. The detail that he ate the piece of grilled fish "before their eyes" is an indication that the disciples are authentic witnesses to the resurrection: it is the same Jesus whom they knew before the crucifixion, but now he is transformed; he is not a ghost or a resuscitated corpse. The mention of fish recalls the feeding of the five thousand, which has Eucharistic overtones.

The risen Jesus then "opened their minds to understand the scriptures", another Eucharistic allusion. The earlier Emmaus episode shows the importance of the Hebrew scriptures in making sense of the story of Jesus. Here the same message is reinforced, underlining that the paschal event is part of God's plan.

Luke's Gospel narrative of Jesus is set in the context of a journey with Jerusalem as its focus: Jesus now tells the disciples that Jerusalem will become the hub from which the preaching of the Gospel will radiate out to the whole world. But not quite yet: the Holy Spirit will be the driving force and the Spirit has still to come. ■

REFLECT

Luke is concerned to show that the risen Jesus is present when his disciples gather together to share a meal in his memory. The essential elements in this celebration are setting what happened to Jesus in the context of the Hebrew scriptures and the breaking of bread.

In our Sunday readings, the first reading and the Gospel are thematically linked: sometimes the connection is more obvious than on other occasions, but the fundamental point remains, that the Gospels can only be fully understood against the background of what we usually call the Old Testament. A homily is an explanation of the scripture readings: a sermon is more of a class or lecture on some specific point of church teaching. It is an interesting point from the Emmaus story that Cleopas and his companion are homilising as they make their way from Jerusalem to Emmaus. They are focused on Jesus and what happened to him, but, without the Hebrew scriptures, this remains an insoluble puzzle. The same message is forcefully conveyed in today's passage.

There is much more interest now in Catholic circles in the study of the Bible: a version with cross-references in the margin is a great help in making the links between Gospel passages and their Hebrew counterparts. ■

LEARN

In the Bible, people never discover God: God always reveals Godself.

The official teaching of the Catholic Church places the scriptures in the context of God's self-revelation as the Word of God.

The liturgy of the word is an essential element in the celebration of the Eucharist and of equal importance to the sacramental part.

DO

Look up the references to the Jewish scriptures in some Sunday Gospel passage. See if this helps your understanding of the reading and, more importantly, of the person of Jesus.



SAY

The word of our God remains for ever.
(Isaiah 40:8)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

May your people exult for ever, O God,
in renewed youthfulness of spirit,
so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of
our adoption,
we may look forward in confident hope
to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.
Peter said to the people: "You are Israelites,
and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and
Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has
glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus
you handed over and then disowned in the
presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided
to release him. It was you who accused the
Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded
the reprieve of a murderer while you killed
the prince of life. God, however, raised him
from the dead, and to that fact we are the
witnesses.

"Now I know, brothers, that neither you
nor your leaders had any idea what you were
really doing; this was the way God carried
out what he had foretold, when he said
through all his prophets that his Christ would
suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God,
so that your sins may be wiped out."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 4

Response:

Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.
or
Alleluia!

1. When I call, answer me, O God of justice;
from anguish you released me, have
mercy and hear me! (R.)

2. It is the Lord who grants favours to those
whom he loves;
the Lord hears me whenever I call him.
(R.)

3. "What can bring us happiness?" many
say.
Lift up the light of your face on us,
O Lord. (R.)

4. I will lie down in peace and sleep comes
at once,
for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in
safety. (R.)

SECOND READING 1 John 2:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St John.

I am writing this, my children,
to stop you sinning;
but if anyone should sin,
we have our advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ, who is just;
he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away,
and not only ours,
but the whole world's.
We can be sure that we know God
only by keeping his commandments.
Anyone who says, "I know him",
and does not keep his commandments,
is a liar,
refusing to admit the truth.
But when anyone does obey what he has said,
God's love comes to perfection in him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, explain the scriptures to us.

Make our hearts burn within us as you talk
to us.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 24:35-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke.

The disciples told their story of what had
happened on the road and how they had
recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about this when
Jesus himself stood among them and said
to them, "Peace be with you!" In a state of
alarm and fright, they thought they were
seeing a ghost. But he said, "Why are you
so agitated, and why are these doubts rising
in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet;
yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for
yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones
as you can see I have." And as he said this
he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy
was so great that they could not believe it,
and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to
them, "Have you anything here to eat?" And
they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which
he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, "This is what I meant
when I said, while I was still with you, that
everything written about me in the Law of
Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms,
has to be fulfilled." He then opened their
minds to understand the scriptures, and he
said to them, "So you see how it is written
that the Christ would suffer and on the third
day rise from the dead, and that, in his name,
repentance for the forgiveness of sins would

be preached to all the nations, beginning
from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

(all bow during the next two lines)

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the
Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive, O Lord, we pray,
these offerings of your exultant Church,
and, as you have given her cause for such
great gladness,
grant also that the gifts we bring
may bear fruit in perpetual happiness.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Christ had to suffer and on the third day
rise from the dead;
in his name repentance and remission of sins
must be preached to all the nations, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Look with kindness upon your people,
O Lord,
and grant, we pray,
that those you were pleased to renew by
eternal mysteries
may attain in their flesh
the incorruptible glory of the resurrection.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Our Lady & St Edmund of Abingdon ***1 Radley Rd, Abingdon on Thames, Oxon, OX14 3PL***

We are a **LiveSimply** parish aiming to live Simply, Sustainably and in Solidarity with the Poor

Parish Priest: Fr. Jamie McGrath Tel: 01235 520375
Parish Secretary: Lisa Paterson Tel: 01235 520375
Office Hours: 10.30am-12.30pm Tuesday to Friday
Office Email: abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

We live stream all services

Safeguarding Team: Tel. 07572 935 230
Visits at JR Hospital: Priest/Chaplain 01865 221732
Visits and Help: Society of Vincent de Paul Group, contact via Parish Office
Parish Website: www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk
Primary School: St. Edmund's School, Radley Road, Abingdon, OX14 3PP Tel 521558



Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No 246871

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



PRIVATE PRAYER

We are blessed that the church can be open, but for **private prayer only**, on the following days and times:

- ✠ **Tuesdays: 12pm to 1pm**
- ✠ **Fridays: 12pm to 1pm**

MASS BOOKINGS:

On Monday 19th April you can book for Masses from Sunday 25th April to Saturday 1st May.

PLEASE remember to give as many dates and times when you could attend, and book **on** the Monday – otherwise you may be disappointed. Also be clear on the number of people you are booking for and let us know if you would like to attend more than one Mass during the week.

HOW TO BOOK FOR MASS

No Internet Access?

Phone **07395 946827** EACH MONDAY between 10am and 11am ONLY to book a place for the FOLLOWING week

Have Internet Access?

DON'T phone. Instead, email: contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk EACH MONDAY, to book a place for the FOLLOWING week

CONFESSIONS

By appointment only for now. Please contact the **parish office** to book an appointment.

NEWSLETTERS

We are currently still not able to offer any printed material in church. Please bring your own newsletter with you if you would like to (you can download it from our website).

3rd Week of Easter (Year B)

Attendance through booking system only, but also available on our live stream

Sunday 18 April

10.15am Mass
2.00pm Mass in Polish
6.30pm Mass

Third Sunday of Easter

(All parishioners)
(Special intention)

Monday 19 April

9am Mass *(Special intention)*

Tuesday 20 April

NO Mass See: www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/english-martyrs-vale-of-white-horse for other masses

Wednesday 21 April

7pm Mass *(Special intention)*

Thursday 22 April

9.30am Mass (Jeanne (Jan) Delany, RIP)

Friday 23 April

7pm Mass *(Special intention)*

St George

Saturday 24 April

12pm Mass *(Special intention)*



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot today receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



CAFOD THANKS YOU

Thank you for your generous donations to CAFOD’s Family Fast Day during Lent. CAFOD featured Marian and her son Svondo in Zimbabwe in Lent 2018. The community vegetable garden that your donations helped provide is growing well and during the pandemic the family has survived on the vegetables. Your support has also helped to provide soap and handwashing stations in the garden and in family homes. This is just one of many long-term development projects that CAFOD has funded with the money from that Fast Day. Thank you for your steadfast support.



PENTECOST CHALLENGE

Friends of the Holy Land are organising a Pentecost Challenge which consists of walking, cycling, running or swimming the 84-mile pilgrimage route from Bethlehem to Nazareth. The aim is to enable children to stay in Christian schools. If you aren’t sporty, you can just make a donation online (**please don’t put it into the church collection**). For more information, please visit: www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/pentecost



ANOTHER BIG THANK YOU

The sum raised for our two Lenten projects has totalled **£5,744.90**, with a small amount still to come through gift aid. Although not as good an amount as we customarily raise, in the circumstances, this is excellent! A huge thank you to all who contributed towards these two worthy causes.

‘REMEMBERING’ EASTER

It was wonderful to gather together at the Easter Vigil to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation with three new members, Roxy, Duncan and Veronica. The atmosphere was so peaceful and, as we all renewed our Baptismal promises together, it felt so very special to everyone. Even if you were not able to attend any of the Easter services in person, hopefully you too experienced the joy and wonder in remembering the Risen Christ. It was certainly a joyful and memorable celebration that Roxy, Duncan and Veronica will treasure forever. Please keep them in your prayers.

We are fortunate that our church has remained open – what a contrast to last year! As lockdown restrictions are gradually eased, we are still opening in accordance with the government rules and guidelines for places of worship and ‘meeting indoors’. As such, our church capacity has not increased, but it is wonderful that more of us are returning through our booking system. However, please note that it may not be possible to allocate a place for you if you only give one option for dates when you can attend. It may help to remind you that the ‘Sunday obligation’ still extends to other days in the week during this pandemic period.

Christ calls us to “*come back to Him with all our heart*” (cf. Joel 2:12). Receiving the Eucharist sacramentally strengthens us to do this. Let us not forget the Easter promise that the joy of the presence of the Risen Christ **is** all around, and let us all allow the love of God to be reborn, resurrected and renewed in all of our hearts.

POPE’S PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL

Pope Francis asks us to pray this month to defend fundamental human rights. Let us pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis, that they may see their sacrifice and their work bear abundant fruit.

O Lord our God, between Easter and Pentecost, You speak to us of the Holy Spirit at work in Your Church. Send Your renewing fire into the hearts of all of us during this holy season, that we may live with enthusiasm the life of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.
Amen