

**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.

SAY

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

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.



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.

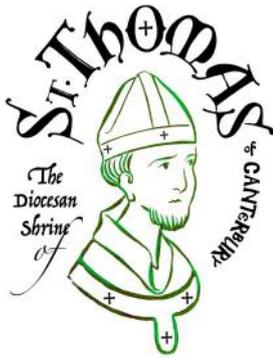
COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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.

NEWSLETTER



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

59 Burgate Canterbury Kent CT1 2HJ

Telephone: 01227 462896 Email: canterbury@rcaos.org.uk

Web Site: <https://stthomasofcanterbury.com>  St Thomas of Canterbury

Parish Priest: Canon Anthony Charlton email: anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk

Assistant Priest: Fr John Howard

email: johnhoward@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Miss Linda Scott

St Thomas' Shop (01227 462896): OPEN SUNDAYS FROM AFTER 9.30 MASS UNTIL 12 NOON

University of Kent Chaplaincy: Fr Tom Herbst (01843 230 774) email: tjherbst@gmail.com

St Thomas' Catholic Primary School: Head Teacher: Miss Lisa D'Agostini (01227 462539)

St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School: Exec Prin: Mr M Walters; Academy Prin: Mr J Rowarth (01227 826200)

The Parish Office is open Mondays and Fridays
9.30am to 3.00pm (closed 12.30 - 1pm for lunch)
Linda works from home Tues & Thurs - please email

ALL MASSES ARE LIVESTREAMED

6.00 pm (Vigil): James Scott - RIP (*Kathleen Kerr*)

Sunday 18th Apr: Third Sunday of Easter Lk 24:35-48

8.00am: Welfare of Family of Mary Wright

9.30am: Becky Judge - RIP (*Annie & John*)

11.00am: Cyril Benedict Hardy - RIP (*Richard & Elaine*)

12.15pm: Baptism of *Avery Perez Dennis-Mensan*

4.30 pm: Parish Annual General Meeting via Zoom

6.00 pm: People of the Parish

2nd Collection: **SVP**

Monday 19th Apr: St Alphege

Jn 6: 22-29

7.30 am: Roberto di Paco - RIP

10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration

12 noon: Sr Mary Ludovinia (Nazareth House) - wellbeing

6.00pm: Live-streamed Prayer

Tuesday 20th Apr: Feria

Jn 6: 30-35

10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration

12 noon: David Heap - RIP (*Christine Heap*)

6.00pm: Live-streamed Prayer

Wednesday 21st Apr: St Anselm, Dr of Church Jn 6:35-40

7.30 am: for all Volunteers who help keep the church open

10.30am - 11.30pm: Reconciliation

10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration

12 noon: for staff & students of St Anselm's, Canterbury

2.00 pm: Funeral of late Alan Skeet at Barham

6.00pm: Live streamed Prayer

Thursday 22nd Apr: Feria

Jn 6: 44-51

7.30 am: Patty Baxter - thanksgiving (*Joan Blows*)

10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration

12 noon: Sr Lucia & Community (USA) - wellbeing

6.00pm: Live streamed Prayer

7.30 - 8.30pm: Adoration for Young Adults with Fr John

Friday 23rd Apr: St George Jn 15: 18-21 or Jn 15:1-8

10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration

12 noon: Brendan McCormack - RIP (*Doreen & Family*)

12.40pm: Funeral of late Isabella Bannon at Barham

1.00pm: Church open for private prayer and adoration

6.00pm: Live streamed Prayer

7.30pm: Kieth Purbrick - RIP (*Sue Purbrick*)

Saturday 24th Apr: Sts Justus & Mellitus Jn 6:60-69

10.30am - 11.30pm: Reconciliation

10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration

12 noon: Fred & Margaret Gadd - RIP (*Gadd Family*)

6.00 pm (Vigil): People of the Parish

2nd Collection:
Priest' Training Fund

Sunday 25th Apr: Fourth Sunday of Easter Jn 10: 11-18

8.00am: Francis Brown - RIP (2nd Anniv.) (*Philomena*)

9.30am: for the Filipino Community and families

11.00am: Carol Mary Kidby - RIP (*Sue Purbrick*)

4.00pm: Polish Community Mass

6.00 pm: Geoff Smart - RIP

PARISH MATTERS

Please remember in your prayers:

Marie Strong, Angeline Frizell, Luisa Ward, Janette Hughes, Barbara Brett, Mary Dittrich, Pat Gibson, Jenni Aldridge, Mary Reynolds, Brian Wicker, Joan Sutton, Audrey Martin, Elizabeth Gilhenny, Bill Parker, Lucy Purbrick, Josie Carr, Simon Lam, Sr Anne Bross (formerly of our parish), Pippa Swan, Fr John Slater, Jennifer Lang, Pauline Lilford, Barbara Markham, Patricia Gray, Patrick Sellars, Fr Kevin Alban O.Carm, Sr Margaret McGrath, Angela Nichols, Jean Boyce

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Patricia Collins, Andrzej Czupkowski, Chris Bateman, Pia Iannacci, Antonio Iannacci, Ellen Fitzgerald, Anna Koeller, Fr Michael Gwinnett, Ann Sexton, Paulina Manfredini, Fr Michael Boland, Fr George Webster, Theresa Ramsundar, Canon Frank O'Sullivan, Margaret Willis, Rev Paul Saunders, Sylvia Guy, Pat Gill, Baby Layla Green, Paul Card, Alan Skeet, Rodolfo Ignacio, Isabella Bannon, HRH Prince Philip - Duke of Edinburgh and Dean Brazier

Please pray for those whose 1st anniversaries are this month:

John Todd and Maria Prado

COLLECTIONS: Our retiring collections:

This weekend: 17/18 April: for the work of the SVP

Next weekend: 24/25 April: Ecclesiastical Education: this collection helps to meet the cost of training students for the priesthood and the permanent diaconate. It also supports ongoing formation of the clergy.



CHURCH SHOP Our Grand Reopening takes place on Friday, 23 April 2021. To comply with social distancing requirements, we will be located in the Hall Foyer. All welcome!

SVP: many of you have generously donated a number of items during lockdown. These are being passed on to people who can use and appreciate them. As we do not have storage space at the church, and Charity Shops are reopening, please now give direct to them. Thank you for your support.

Alan Skeet's Funeral Service: The Funeral Service of Alan Skeet can be viewed on <https://www.obitus.com/> using the Username: **haxu4846** and Password: **978384**. Viewers can join 5 minutes before the start of the service at 2.00pm
Donations in memory of Alan (in lieu of flowers) to:
<https://memoriespace.mind.org.uk/MemorySpace/Alan-Skeet>

This time last year we had our Parish Annual General Meeting in the hall, amidst great concerns about the effects of the Corona Virus as Covid 19 that was spreading worldwide. The last item in the minutes read:

“Guidance for the Bishops Conference of England and Wales relating to coronavirus. This meeting was held with recognition of appropriate distancing of chairs. The Guidance was noted, as well as the fact that the situation is changing all the time. We need to be aware of people in the parish who may self-isolate and be in need of support. Volunteers will be needed. We will explore facilities to download and stream homilies.”

The meeting was held on 15th March 2020 and it was on 23 March 2020 that Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, told the country that people ‘must’ stay at home and certain businesses must close. We only re-opened the church for the celebration of Mass on 26th July 2020. What a year it has been which has changed forever the way we see things and the way we do things.

This Sunday afternoon, we are having our AGM but it is by Zoom. I am sure that many of you have been using Apps like Zoom, WhatsApp and Microsoft Teams to contact friends and family and conduct meetings. The danger is that those who are not on line could become isolated. The AGM is an opportunity to look back on the past year and to plan for the future as well as taking stock of where we are now as a parish.

In the Gospel today, the risen Jesus appears in the room where the disciples were. He reassures them he is no ghost by showing them his wounds and inviting them to touch him. He also eats a piece of broiled fish. Jesus opened their minds to understand the scriptures; “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.” This is still the core message, or Good News.

The challenge for us is how we share this message, this truth, in this time of pandemic. It is a challenge for parents in sharing faith with children. It is a challenge for us, in partnership with families, to help to prepare our children and young people for the sacraments of initiation. It is a challenge for us as a parish how we celebrate the liturgy under the present restrictions. It is challenge for us in bringing Christ to the sick, the isolated and the lonely. This time is a challenge to us in helping our children and young people in their education.

We are challenged to look beyond and respond to the acute needs of our brothers and sisters in other parts of the world. Pope Francis in February, addressing members of the Diplomatic Service, drew the Ambassadors’ attention to what he described as perhaps “the most serious of all [crises]: the crisis of human relations,” which has come into sharper focus during the pandemic. “The year 2021 is a time that must not be wasted. And it will not be wasted if we can work together with generosity and commitment. In this regard, I am convinced that fraternity is the true cure for the pandemic and the many evils that have affected us. Along with vaccines, fraternity and hope are, as it were, the medicine we need in today’s world.” The risen Jesus is in our midst calling us to go and witness.

**GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY 24/25 April 2021
Priest Training Fund 2nd Collection**

Next week is the World Day of prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. As members of the Church, we are encourage to pray earnestly for an increase in priestly and religious vocations. Next week we take up the second collection in support of the priest Training Fund which pays for the formation of Southwark Seminarian's and Deacons and the good work of our vocations team. Please be generous to this appeal. Your gifts will support 7 men currently in formation to the Priesthood for our Diocese. There will be donation envelopes available at Mass today, which can be used to Gift Aid your donation. You can also donate online via www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/vocations.htm, by scanning the QR code, or telephone on 020 7960 2504 (office hours Mon - Fri). Thank you for your prayers and generosity.



CAFOD: Thank you for your generous donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day during Lent. We 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 helped provide soap and handwashing stations in the garden and family homes. This is just one of many long-term development projects that CAFOD has funded with money from that Fast Day. Thank you for your steadfast support.

CONTACTING THE PARISH OFFICE. Please use only the email canterbury@rcaos.org.uk to contact the Parish office as the Parish Administrator, Linda, does not have access to any other email addresses. Under the current restrictions, Linda is only in the office on Mondays and Fridays but is working from home on Tuesdays and Thursdays where she has access to the parish email. If you wish to speak with her, please send an email with a contact telephone number and she will phone you back.