

PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

Week Commencing
SUNDAY 26th APRIL 2020
3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

FOCUS ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

There is a famous painting by the Italian Baroque Master Caravaggio entitled the Supper at Emmaus, which hangs in the National Gallery in London. It captures the moment in Luke Chapter 24 when two travellers who are disciples of Jesus, Cleopas and his companion, at last recognise who is this stranger that has joined them on their journey from Jerusalem to Emmaus. In the painting, Jesus offers the prayer of thanksgiving over the food and wine, and the faces and gestures of the disciples reflect their dawning realisation of the identity of this familiar and faithful friend. It is in this echo of the Last Supper that his disciples recognise him for who he is. The composition of the painting appears to invite the viewer to draw close to the table in order to personally experience the drama of the moment when the reality of the resurrection bursts forth into the lives of these followers of Jesus.

In this familiar Gospel story, then, we observe how Jesus drew alongside his downcast disciples, and listened to their tale of woe. Only then did he seek to open the Scriptures and explain what had really taken place in the crucifixion and resurrection. And then he reinforced the importance of the sacrament of the Eucharist which he had instituted only a few days before at the Last Supper; revealing his glory through the act of taking, blessing, and breaking bread.

And there is a sense in this passage of a divine blessing of the ordinary and mundane. Everyday things in life – a journey, a shared meal, time spent with the people who are precious to us – these become the means through which the glory of God is revealed. Are we open, then, to finding God along the way in the ordinary, the everyday, the familiar, the mundane, as well as in the holy places of church and liturgy?

Tony Bundock

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COLLECT FOR 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER AND THE FOLLOWING WEEK

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever, *Amen*.

READINGS FOR 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts. Ch. 2 V. 14a & VV. 36 – 41
1 Peter Ch. 1 VV. 17 – 23

Luke Ch. 24 VV. 13 – 35



PRAYER CHAIN PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Heavenly Father, at this time when we may feel alone and that you are far away, we pray that we will be drawn to you as we remember the miracle of your Son rising from the tomb on the third day.

We pray for your church and our church family at this time of uncertainty, particularly for those who are alone, worried about loved ones or fearful of becoming ill themselves, that they may feel the presence of the Holy Spirit and given a sense of calmness and peace. We remember that you have promised us that nothing can separate us from your love, as you demonstrated through your Son, Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.



Prayer Notes

- We pray for all parts of the world affected by the Coronavirus (Covid-19), those who are ill with the virus and the souls of those who have died. We pray for those working in the NHS and Social Services who are working with the sick, the elderly and the disabled.
- We pray for those in our parish who are isolating themselves due to age or infirmity and those supporting them.
- For those in the parish and further afield who are sick or in need that they receive peace and healing, including: Irene Foord, Mary Mines, Helena Oecken, Ian Wilson, Ron Goodearl, Phillipa King, Reverend Rob Brown and Barnaby Woods.
- For the recently departed, particularly for Ruth Barclay. May their souls rest in peace. We pray for Jo Niven and her family at this difficult time.
- For Peace and Resolution for the peoples of those countries where there is conflict or tension including countries in the Middle East, Ukraine, Nigeria, Venezuela, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sri Lanka and Hong Kong.
- For Comfort and mercy for the peoples of those countries, where there have been natural disasters, and for the aid agencies bringing relief.
- For our Government and Parliament at this time of uncertainty, and that MP's of all parties will come together in the National Interest.
- For migrants that they may receive justice and mercy.
- Safety for Christians and peoples of all faiths in danger that there may be a spirit of peace and understanding.
- For our mission and ministry in this community.
- For our Linked Parish of St. Mary's Kuruman.
- Thanks for our church community and our shared faith
- Thanks for all who help, in any way, in our Church.
- For our successful fundraising events this year.

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

The Church of England guidance remains the same the church building being closed to Sunday worship. Although our usual pattern of Sunday Services and mid-week gatherings must be put on hold, this does not mean that the Church of England has shut up shop. Being a part of the Church of England is going to look very different in the days ahead. At least for the time being, our life is going to be less characterised by attendance at Church on Sunday, and more characterised by the prayer and service we offer each day. We may not be able to pray for people in the ways that we are used to, but we can certainly pray for people. And we can certainly offer practical care and support.

Keep safe and please continue to pray for one another at this time.

Canon Tony, The Churchwardens & The PCC

DIARY DATES / FUTURE PLANNED EVENTS

Event	Date and time	Venue
Church Mice Praise and Play for Babies and Pre-schooler and their Families.	Currently on Hold	St. John's Church
Lent Course.	Currently on Hold	Various
Lent Lunches.	Currently on Hold	Various
Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APM). Our Annual General meeting.	Currently on Hold	St. John's Church

YOUR GIVING TO ST. JOHN'S TO SUPPORT ITS MISSION IN OUR COMMUNITY

At St John's we are very grateful to all our congregation and visitors for their kind and generous donations to the church. These donations are crucial in ensuring we can continue to operate (we don't receive any funding from the diocese to cover the cost of running the church), and the suspension of services is likely to have a very significant impact on church finances. For those donors who do not already donate by way of monthly standing order or weekly envelopes you may wish to consider either setting up a standing order or making a one-off donation.

Cheques (payable to PCC St John's Lacey Green) can be posted to our Treasurer, Caroline Gulliver, at Waterside, Bledlow Road, Princes Risborough HP27 9NG or bank transfers / standing orders set up using the following details: Account Name: Parochial Church Council of St Johns Lacey Green Account No: 72102986 Sort Code: 40-24-17.

Weekly envelopes should continue to be filled each week and handed in all together once services are resumed. Pat Rushmere will shortly be arranging the distribution new packs of giving envelopes for the approaching tax year and she can provide them if new people would like to take advantage of this system. Thank you. *Canon Tony, The Churchwardens & The PCC*

Key Contacts:

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