



**EAST HENDRED  
CATHOLIC PARISH**

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**26<sup>th</sup> April 2020      Third Sunday of Easter**

Friends

Back in harness after a few days' break, I am resuming the 9am Mass on East Hendred Catholic Parish Facebook Page, which you may prefer to watch as a video later in the day rather than a livestream. I am hoping to resume (and learn to make a success of!) the Wednesday Zoom Coffee Break at 11am and, following the success of our local ecumenical 'Gathering Together in Christ' Bible Study Group, I shall try to re-convene the Friday 'The God Who Speaks' Study (which met for a time at 9.15am). Meanwhile I have been learning about successful Zoom Masses in Wantage and Faringdon, and the way that musicians and readers can interact. There are stories of the congregation sending in photos of themselves, children writing to older members of the congregation, and social gatherings taking place after Mass. In short, having been well ahead of the curve, we are now somewhat behind....

No one knows quite how all this will develop. Those of us who are older (however that is defined), or who have medical complexities, are likely to remain longer in lock-down, it seems, and that includes the priest and many parishioners. So, in short, we can't just wait for better times: we have to get on being the Church in the present, God's holy people. We particularly cherish and support those who are in the front-line in the battle.

Take care and God bless

[www.hendredcatholicparish.org.uk](http://www.hendredcatholicparish.org.uk)

# East Hendred Catholic Parish



**Third Sunday of  
Easter (A)  
26<sup>th</sup> April 2020  
Antiphons,  
Prayers and  
Readings**

## **Antiphon**

*Iubilate Deo, omnis terra*

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name, O render him glorious praise, alleluia. *cf Ps 66:1-2*

## **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, one God, for ever and ever.

## **First Reading**

*Acts 2:14, 22-33 (RSV)*

<sup>14</sup> [On the day of Pentecost] Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, 'Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. <sup>22</sup> 'Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs which God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— <sup>23</sup> this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and

killed by the hands of lawless men. <sup>24</sup> But God raised him up, having loosed the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. <sup>25</sup> For David says concerning him,

'I saw the Lord always before me,  
for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken;  
<sup>26</sup> therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
moreover my flesh will dwell in hope.

<sup>27</sup> For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,  
nor let your Holy One see corruption.

<sup>28</sup> You have made known to me the ways of life;  
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

<sup>29</sup> 'Brethren, I may say to you confidently of the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. <sup>30</sup> Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants upon his throne, <sup>31</sup> he foresaw and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. <sup>32</sup> This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. <sup>33</sup> Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this which you see and hear.

## **Psalm**

*Ps 16:1, 5, 7-11*

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

<sup>2</sup> I say to the LORD, 'You are my Lord;  
I have no good apart from you.'

<sup>5</sup> The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;  
you hold my lot.

<sup>7</sup> I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;  
in the night also my heart instructs me.

<sup>8</sup> I keep the LORD always before me;  
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be  
moved.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;  
my body also dwells secure.

<sup>10</sup> For you do not give me up to Sheol,  
or let your godly one see the Pit.

<sup>11</sup> You show me the path of life;  
in your presence there is fulness of joy,  
in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

## **Second Reading**

*1 Peter 1:17-21 (RSV)*

If you invoke as Father him who judges each one impartially according to his deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile. <sup>18</sup> You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your fathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. <sup>20</sup> He was destined before the foundation of the world but was made manifest at the end of the times for your sake. <sup>21</sup> Through him you have confidence in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

**R/ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Lord Jesus, explain the scriptures to us.

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

**R/ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## **Gospel**

*Luke 24:13-35 (RSV)*

That very day two of them were going to a village named Emma'us, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. <sup>16</sup> But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, 'What is this

conversation which you are holding with each other as you walk?' And they stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, named Cle'opas, answered him, 'Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?' <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, 'What things?' And they said to him, 'Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. <sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since this happened. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning <sup>23</sup> and did not find his body; and they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb, and found it just as the women had said; but him they did not see.' <sup>25</sup> And he said to them, 'O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?' <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. <sup>28</sup> So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He appeared to be going further, <sup>29</sup> but they constrained him, saying, 'Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.' So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; and he vanished out of their sight. <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?' <sup>33</sup> And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven gathered together and those who were with them, <sup>34</sup> who said, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!' <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

## Reflection

THE ENCOUNTER on the road to Emmaus on the evening of the first Easter Day is one of the loveliest of the Gospel stories. It bears repetition: those following the Daily Bulletin will have come across it on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> and it is now read today as the Sunday Gospel. Forgive me if I draw a little on my reflection of eleven days ago!

One of the things I have listened to this week – and tend to each year at this time – is the Bach cantata *Bleib bei uns, denn es will Abend warden*. (BWV 6). ‘Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent’. That verse, from the Emmaus story, encapsulates our desire not only to meet Jesus but to have him remain with us. The Latin tag – *mane nobiscum* (remain with us) expresses that longing. As does the prayer of Henry Vaughan, the seventeenth century Welsh mystical poet:

Abide with us, O most blessed and merciful Saviour, for it is toward evening and the day is far spent. As long as thou art present with us, we are in the light. When thou art present all is brightness, all is sweetness. We discourse with thee, watch with thee, live with thee and lie down with thee. Abide then with us, O thou whom our soul loveth, thou Sun of righteousness with healing under thy wings arise in our hearts; make thy light then to shine in darkness as a perfect day in the dead of night.

The Emmaus Road story is perfectly told: the walk of two bereaved and bewildered disciples; an encounter with a mysterious stranger to whom they pour out their grief; his counsel and encouragement, as he explains the Scriptures to them; the *mane nobiscum* (remain with us) incident; the meal and the discovery of the Risen Christ ‘in the breaking of the bread’. It is not only a journey of exploration and discovery – another instance of the darkness of unbelief to the light of faith – but an acting out of the Eucharist. In the Eucharist, where two

or three are gathered together (Matt 18:20) 'on the Way', we discover Jesus accompanying us. He expounds the Scriptures – the Liturgy of the Word – and we find our hearts burning within us. We prepare the Supper, inviting him to remain with us. We then discover him in the breaking of the bread. The eucharistic liturgy does not end there: in conclusion we find ourselves impelled to go out and tell others the Good News. In this way the Resurrection Faith is spread and communicated to the world.

The lay folk of the Church – and that, of course, is far and away the largest part of the Church – are in the middle of a eucharistic famine. The priests, meanwhile, continue day by day, as best they can, to offer Mass and receive Holy Communion for and on behalf of the laity. Eucharistic famine isn't easy: I remember the experience in the month of December 2010, after I had left the Church of England and before I was received on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011. Christmas without Holy Communion must be a bit like Easter without Holy Communion. The disciples on the Road to Emmaus that first Easter Day were experiencing the loss of their Lord – the loss of communion and fellowship with him. Once they had encountered the mysterious stranger and begun to hang onto his every word, they needed him to stay with them. *Mane nobiscum. Bleib bei uns.* 'Stay with us'. What we cling on to now is the promise that Jesus made as he finally parted from his disciples. The promise is fulfilled in his indwelling presence in the tabernacle in Church and forms the last few words of St Matthew's Gospel: 'I am with you always, to the close of the age.' We pray 'Stay with us' and he does just that.

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## Renewal of Baptismal Creed

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



## Prayers

**IN THE** power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,  
let us pray to the Father.

**O GOD**, the creator and preserver of all,  
we pray for people in every kind of need;  
make your ways known on earth,  
your saving health among all nations ...

We pray for the good estate of the Catholic Church;  
guide and govern us by your good Spirit,  
that all who profess and call themselves Christians  
may be led into the way of truth,  
and hold the faith in unity of spirit,  
in the bond of peace and in righteousness of life ...

We commend to your fatherly goodness  
all those who are any ways afflicted or distressed,  
in mind, body or estate;  
comfort and relieve them in their need,  
give them patience in their sufferings,  
and bring good out of all their afflictions ...

We remember those who have gone before us  
in the peace of Christ,  
and we give you praise for all your faithful ones,  
with whom we rejoice in the communion of saints ...

All this we ask for Jesus Christ's sake.

**Amen.**

## **Our Father...**

### **Communion Antiphon**

*Cognoverunt discipuli*

The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

*Lk 24:35*

### **Act of Spiritual Communion**

*St Alphonsus Liguori (18<sup>th</sup> cent.)*

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 now 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.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

### **Prayer after Spiritual 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.

#### **Prayer for the Parish Community**

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

*cf 2 Corinthians 13:14*

## Scripture Reading (Easter Week 3)

**Monday** Acts 6:8-15 John 6:22-29

**Tuesday** Acts 7:51 - 8:1 John 6:30-35

**Wednesday** Acts 8:1-8 John 6:35-40

**Thursday** Acts 8:26-40 John 6:44-51

**Friday** Acts 9:1-20 John 6:52-59

**Saturday** Acts 9:31-42 John 6:60-69

### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)**

**Acts 2:14, 36-41**

**1 Peter 2:20-25**

**John 10:1-10**

Ant.  
6.  
**R**

E-gí-na cæli \* læ-tá-re, alle-lú-ia: Qui a  
quem me-ru-ísti portá-re, alle-lú-ia: Re-surréx-it,  
si-cut dix-it, alle-lú-ia: Ora pro no-bis De-um,  
alle-lú-ia.

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# **NOTICES FOR THE WEEK**

## **PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR:**

### **THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED**

Sr Catherine, Mary Wallace, Brenda Paddon, Angus Clark, Karen Greig, Kitty Teasdale, Mary Mc Nichol, Andrew Gunn, Elizabeth Gunn, Des McNichol.

### **THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED**

Those who have died recently and those with anniversaries at this time: Henry Hunt, Sarah Hatto, Matthew Lincham, Pauline Ann O'Rourke, Phil Smith, Lilian Smith, Peter Frearson

### **HOLY FATHER'S APRIL PRAYER INTENTION**

We pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.

### **HOLY FATHER'S MAY PRAYER INTENTION**

We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

### **STAFF ON FURLOUGH**

Following diocesan practice, our Parish Administrator, Maria Brown, and her assistant, Ma Lluïsa Jarne, are on furlough until the end of May. All enquiries in the first instance to Fr Andrew.

### **OUR CHURCHES**

Our Churches remain locked by order of the Bishop and those who have keys are asked not to enter, except by agreement with Fr Andrew, until the emergency measures are lifted. There are periodic inspections to ensure that all is well.

### **IN CASE OF EMERGENCY**

in case of emergency, please contact Fr Andrew on 01235 835038. If you need a priest in person, Fr David O'Sullivan from Wantage is happy for you to have his phone number, 07554427063.