

**BAPTISMS IN THE PARISH:** If you have a child due for Baptism please let me know as soon as possible. To avoid any disappointment with dates contact the Presbytery to book your date. If you are first-time parents, you need to contact Sharon Chalk, who will organise a Baptismal Preparation of two sessions, and then I will come and visit you in your homes. Please don't forget to collect your Baptismal Information Form.



**LOUGHTON PARISH GIFT AID SCHEME:** Many thanks to all the parishioners who have collected their new Gift Aid Envelopes. The New Financial Year commences this weekend. Would those who have, as yet, not picked up their new envelopes kindly do so as soon as possible? The use of the GA envelopes is extremely important; we are not allowed to claim any tax back if the envelopes are not used. There are always spare envelopes in the porch of the Church.

If you do not belong to the Parish Gift Aid Scheme, and someone in the family pays Income Tax then please consider joining. It is very simple in that we only require you to complete the GA Form with your name and address and Brian Carter will do the rest. Please think seriously about joining the scheme!

We are able to claim back 25pence in the pound for every pound you donate in your envelopes. E.g. if you give £10 per week, we receive an additional £2.50 per week. This certainly mounts up over the financial year.

Brian Carter – Parish Gift Aid Organiser, Tel No: 020 8508 4086

**FAITH SHARING PROGRAMME:** If you're interested in learning a little bit more about your Roman Catholic Faith, I'm anticipating beginning a faith sharing course commencing in May. This will give you an opportunity to ask questions and explore different aspects of the Roman Catholic Faith. It will be fairly informal, and will take place on Wednesday evenings. If you could let me know your feelings about this I would be most grateful. Anything that can help us learn more about the faith can only be a good thing!

**JOURNEY  
IN  
Faith**

**IN CASES OF EMERGENCY:** Tuesday is usually Fr. John's Day Off. In cases of emergency please call one of the local parishes, either in Epping – Tel: 01992 572516, or the St. Thomas of Canterbury Friary at Woodford Green – Tel: 020 8504 1688. This would also apply if Fr. John is away for a few days break or on Retreat. All the local funeral directors have a contact number for Fr. John if a funeral needs to be arranged in his absence.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Third Sunday of Easter 2018

One of the remarkable things about today's post-resurrection appearance of Jesus is that he ate broiled fish! Quite why the resurrected body infused with the very life of God, a body which had conquered sin and death, needed the nourishment of the broiled fish is hard to know – one to ponder for sure. As fascinating as this would be as a theme for our reflection today, our focus is going to be elsewhere. Our focus is on how, despite appearing to his disciples, despite the hard physical evidence, Jesus nevertheless 'opened their minds so that they could understand the Scriptures.'



From this Scripture we see that in order to grasp the reality of the resurrection, the event of the bodily resurrection of a human being, suffused and transfused with the immortal life of God, it remained imperative that the disciples devoted their lives to understanding the Scriptures. In other words, the actual witness in real life and real time of the Risen Christ wasn't enough for this profound transcendent reality to take root in their hearts and minds. It was through the Bible, the sacred Scriptures that the disciples encountered the Risen Christ, and this is still true for us today.



This is why reading the Bible is so foundational and essential in living the Christian life. Never was there a truer saying than 'Bibles that are falling apart are read by people whose lives are not'. When Paul cried out, 'I want to know Christ – yes to know the power of his resurrection', God's response was 'If you want to know the power of the resurrection, read the Scriptures, devote yourself to devouring the Word of God.' For Paul this would have been only the Hebrew Scriptures – he couldn't have realised that his letters would one day be declared the sacred Word of God by the father of the Church.

So there we have it; if we want the resurrection of Jesus to take root in our lives, if we want to experience God's transforming us by the renewing of our minds; then we need to read the Bible, asking the Holy Spirit to warm our hearts and bring its truth alive.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Third Sunday of Easter 2018

We recently celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord, the most important event within the whole history of creation. Never before or since, has anyone triumphed over death & sin, and these facts are fundamental to our Catholic Christian faith!

One of the most difficult parts of Priestly Ministry is to try and ensure that all the faithful people of God remain engaged with the Lord Jesus. Preaching and teaching are the key components to ensure that the Gospel message continues to be proclaimed; but if many people are not present to hear the Word of God, if people who have fallen by the wayside through the lapsation of the practice of the faith; how do we engage these people once again? This is the sixty-four thousand dollar question! The saddest thing I have found as a priest of 37 years, is when I see young children not accompanying their parents to Mass anymore, the parents stand alone in the Church! I have had many parents speak to me through the years, telling me all sorts of things like - 'I can't get them to go anymore'; 'I don't want to force them'; 'I can't get them out of the bed'; 'I don't want to be fighting with them before mass'; 'they're playing sports on Sunday morning now'. Perseverance and continued example are important! Trying to talk about the importance of the practice of faith, not in a heated discussion, but rationally and calmly! Encouraging our children and young people to become more involved, can help them realise that they also have something very valuable to offer to God and the Church; whether it be through altar serving, reading at



mass, being part of the welcome ministry at mass, helping with the Sacramental Preparation Programme of First Holy Communion, Joining one of the Uniform groups or training to be a leader in the groups, joining the Choir or Contemporary Music Group. These are just some suggestions.

Share  
Your  
Faith!

When people actually really understand what their faith is all about, it really does help the individual to deepen their commitment. Having a wishy-washy attitude to the practice of faith doesn't help anyone. Knowledge and understanding are the key to ingredients to having a lively faith and a commitment to Christ. Talk about the Faith.

May God Bless You All,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Fr. John'.

**CONFIRMANDI:** I would like to encourage our recent Confirmandi to become more involved in the life of the Church. You may feel you have something to offer to God and the Church; please don't be shy to come forward. I hope you have had an opportunity to read the little book he gave you of your questions, answered by Mark Anthony. It really is a powerful resource in understanding you Roman Catholic Faith.

**CONFIRMATION PHOTOS:** Below is a link to the webpage where picture files can be viewed of the confirmation. The images should be available to towards the end of next week. Also below is the password to enter the website. The cost per picture file is £15.00 and people may share and print the picture file as they wish. The website will have further details of how they can pay for the picture files and how they will be sent.

<https://stephenpoverphotography.pixieset.com/confirmationmass2018/>  
Gallery Password: gdX7tDCyTC If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to ask. Stephen Pover. T 07973 383985 W [stephenpoverphotography.com](http://stephenpoverphotography.com)

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** Programme will resume again on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, with the theme being the Last Supper. There will be three celebrations this year. Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 12noon. Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 1.00pm. Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 12noon. And the Going forth Mass on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 11.00am. Please keep the children in your prayers.



**OLD PUPILS FROM ST. JOHN FISHER SCHOOL:** Did you (or anyone) leave St. John Fisher School in the 1960's or earlier? Would you (or they) like to make contact with "old" classmates? If so, please contact: Mike Dewar – [mike@mikedewar.plus.com](mailto:mike@mikedewar.plus.com) or Jan Hatt – [jan.hatt@uwclub.net](mailto:jan.hatt@uwclub.net) or Ann McGuinn (was Muldoon) – [annmcguinn@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:annmcguinn@yahoo.co.uk)

**PARISH CHOIR:** You will have heard the beautiful music and choir over Holy Week & Easter. We are always looking for new members to join the choir. If you enjoy singing and music, please make contact with Sue Farrow our music director, you will be more than welcome to join the choir

**CONTEMPORARY MUSIC GROUP:** Practice takes place on Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> April (6.30pm musicians / 7pm singers) to go over the hymns and music for the 11am Mass on Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> May. As we've had a big gap since our last practise, It would be much appreciated if as many of you as possible could come along on 30<sup>th</sup> April and also be there for the Mass on 6<sup>th</sup> May. Many thanks. Please don't forget that everyone is welcome to join the Parish choir every week. New singers and musicians are also very welcome to join us!

**LATIN MASS IN EPPING CHURCH:** There will be a Traditional Latin Mass on Saturday the 28th April at 12 noon in Epping Catholic Church, 11 Church Hill, CM16 4RA. All are welcome to savour our glorious heritage. Bring your friends!

**THY KINGDOM COME:** The Vicariate of Evangelisation, supporting our effort to renew our diocese, has decided to join THY KINGDOM COME 2018 a global wave of prayer for the renewal of the Christian faith. It could not be easier for everyone, of all ages and levels of business, to help our own families, friends, parish, diocese and the nation to renew their friendship with Jesus. All you have to do is to pledge to pray between May 10-20. More information and resources will be made available during the weeks coming up to the event. Meantime, you can log into <https://www.thykingdomcome.global> for more information.