

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph

Third Sunday of Easter
26th April 2009



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What do we know about Jesus after his resurrection? Well, we know at least that he was hungry!

Both Luke and John report after-death appearances of Jesus where he wants something to eat. And in two of the stories he ends up eating grilled fish. So he wasn't a vegetarian either!

On one level we can see these two accounts as just simple stories that give us a bit more extra detail than we normally have about Jesus' social habits. But there may be something else going on in the two gospel writers' minds.

How do we meet the risen Jesus today? Clearly the most obvious way is through other people. Through our baptism we are called to become "other Christs". We are called to be Christ to each other and we see the face of Christ in all people who require our care, our concern and our service.

We meet the risen Christ in the liturgy when ministers and congregation gather, for Jesus said that wherever two or three gather in his name he will be present.

We meet him in the words of scripture. Far from being some ancient book of religious formulae the scriptures are the living word of God. When the scriptures are proclaimed in church it is God who speaks.

And while we are ready to say that Christ is present in the sacraments, it has to be the eucharist that takes pride of place for meeting the risen Lord. For it is in eating and drinking the body and blood of Christ that we come closest to him. St Augustine never tired of telling his congregation that they would become what they ate: the Body of Christ, which is also the name we give to the Church.

At what precise moment did the two Emmaus disciples realise that they were in the presence of their risen Lord? It was when he broke the bread for them to eat. What was it that Jesus asked the apostles for in both Luke and John's gospel? Something to eat!

Not surprising really, because when we eat that bread and drink that cup we proclaim Christ's death and resurrection until he comes again.



We would like to thank everyone who helped and supported the St George's Fair and Spring Raffle last weekend. A special thanks to all the volunteers who gave up their weekend to set up/clear up and run the stalls as well as those who donated items for all the stalls. In total, we raised £1,555.80. The Spring Fair proceeds will go towards building our new Parish Centre. The list of the winners from the Raffle is on the Notice Boards in the Church entrances. Prizes may be collected from the Church Office.

We thank you for your continued support and look forward to seeing you at the next event, "International Evening" on Saturday 30th May at 7.30pm. More details to be announced, so look out for further details coming soon.

100+ CLUB

The 100+ Club (196 numbers) Easter Bonanza Draw will take place this Sunday after 10.45 Mass.

ANNUAL WEEF COLLECTION

The annual collection to raise funds to pay for the training of new priests takes place next weekend. This is particularly important this year as we now have over 40 seminarians – which is wonderful news. But it is essential that enough money is raised to cover the cost of their training and this will only happen with our help. So could you please take one of the donation envelopes and either return it with your contribution next weekend or, if you are going to be away because of the Bank Holiday, hand it in today before you leave. Thank you.

THE INSTALLATION OF THE NEW ARCHBISHOP

Each Parish is being offered the opportunity for people to attend the Services at the Cathedral for the Installation of Archbishop Vincent Nichols as Archbishop of Westminster.

Two people are invited to attend Vespers at 7.00pm on Wednesday 20th May, and one person is invited to the Mass of Installation at 12 noon on Thursday 21st May.

If you wish to attend either Service, please write your name on a piece of paper, headed either "Vespers" or "Mass". Put the papers through the Letter Box, or hand them in at the Office. We will draw names from a hat!

We have to have replied by this coming Friday, so please do not delay!

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

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

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

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord Jesus, explain the scriptures to us.
Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us.
Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 3:13-15.17-19
Psalm 4
1 John 2:1-5
Luke 24:35-48
NEXT WEEKS' READINGS: Acts 4:8-12
Ps 117:1.8-9.21-23.26.28-29
1 John 3:1-2
John 10:11-18

Mass Times

SUNDAY	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	8.30am 10.45am 12.15pm & 6.30pm
Monday		10.00am
Tuesday		10.00am
Wednesday	Catherine of Siena	10.00am
Thursday		10.00am
Friday		10.00am
Saturday	Athanasius	6.30pm
SUNDAY	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	8.30am 10.45am 12.15pm & 6.30pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation –
Saturday 10.30 – 11.00am & 5.45 – 6.15pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
There is Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Church each Friday morning from 9.15 to 9.45.

Offertory Last Week: £1,344.80 plus the regular Standing Orders.
Easter Offerings £199.21 - Thank You!

OFFERTORY BOXES

The new offertory boxes are now available. Please collect them from the shop area.

SVP

The SVP Group meets on Monday evenings at 8.00pm in the Sacristy.

LEGION OF MARY

The Legion of Mary meets in the Sacristy at 10.45 on Tuesday mornings.

The Mass Diary is closed until further notice

This Parish is part of the Westminster Roman Catholic Diocese Trustee Charity No. 233699

RCIA

The RCIA Group will meet on Tuesday evening at 8.00pm in the Presbytery.

FIRST COMMUNION

The Parish will be celebrating First Communion each weekend in May. They will take place during the 12.15 Mass each Sunday. The Folk Group will "move" from 10.45 Mass to the 12.15 Mass each week! There will be a meeting at 10am in the Church on Saturday 2nd May for the children and their parents who are celebrating their First Communion this coming Sunday.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

There will be a meeting for all candidates who are preparing for Confirmation on Thursday 30th April at 8.00pm in the Church.

BAPTISM THIS WEEK

Paris Udigwe at 1.30pm on Sunday 26th April

BAPTISM PREPARATION

The Baptism Preparation Course will continue this Sunday afternoon at 2.30pm in the Convent in Longlands Close.

FAIRTRADE STALL

The FairTrade stall will be open for business after all Masses this weekend.

MASS IN SUPPORT OF MIGRANT WORKERS

London is one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world, home to migrant communities who have come to seek shelter from oppression and to improve their economic position. Many of the new migrants to our city are Catholics. On Bank Holiday Monday, 4th May 2009 at Westminster Cathedral, Victoria, London SW1, there will be a Mass in honour of St Joseph the Worker. You are invited to join fellow workers, migrants and civic leaders for a morning of reflection and celebration. The Mass will be held at 11.30am preceded by a procession of representatives from London's diverse communities, occupations and civic organisations.

FUND RAISING GROUP

The Fund Raising Group will meet at 8pm on Tuesday 28th April. All welcome.

HERE I AM LORD

A group for young adult men and women who wish to explore a calling to the religious life or priesthood. The group meets twice a month, mid and last Thursdays at 7.30pm at the Newman House Catholic Chaplaincy, 111 Gower Street, WC1E 6AR. For more information, please contact Joanna Gilbert on 0207 387 6370.

