

CATHOLIC PARISH OF WESTBOURNE NEWSLETTER



19 APRIL 2026

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

OUR REDEEMER

It is the first day of the week after the great Jewish feast of the Passover, and Jerusalem is trying to return to its normal routine. The shopkeepers count their profits, and the temple priests congratulate themselves because they were able to kill the 'Galilean'. For the disciples and those who were strangers in Jerusalem, it is time to start to return to their own homes and their normal lives.

Curtains were closed and lights were dimmed not only due to the celebration of Jerusalem's solemn festival but also because everyone had hope that the man Jesus 'would be the One to redeem Israel' (Lk 24:21). The two disciples from Emmaus are to be found, along their journey, talking to 'Jesus in person', but 'their eyes were prevented from recognising him' (Lk 24:16).

Why did the Lord not tell the disciples straight away who He was? Indeed, in the dialogue that the liturgy presents to us today, it almost seems that Jesus did all He could to avoid revealing His true identity. Firstly, He pretended not to know what Cleopas and his companion were discussing, and then He went on to 'explain to them the passages throughout scriptures that were about himself' (Lk 24:27) but without making direct reference to himself.

At the end of the journey, 'he made to go on' (Lk 24:28). Jesus didn't want to play games with His disciples, but He sought to educate their hearts,



and also ours, so that we wouldn't be 'slow'! In fact, when faced with the Lord's presence, we find that the heart quickly 'burns' upon hearing His words as we are grateful for the fact that we were freed not by 'gold and silver but by the precious blood of Christ' who is the 'blameless and spotless' lamb (Cf. 1 Pet 1:19).

The Risen Lord uses so much gentleness with us! He doesn't oblige us to 'believe', but He offers us the instruments that enable us to judge based on the infallible measure of our own hearts. As St. Augustine extraordinarily wrote in the opening of his Confessions, 'Our heart is restless until it rests in you'. (St. Augustine, Conf. 1,1,1: PL 32,659-661)

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Visit our website: www.catholicwestbourne.org

MASS TIMES

Sunday 19 April - 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER
9.00am
11.00am

Monday 20 April - 3RD WEEK OF EASTER
No Mass

Tuesday 21 April - 3RD WEEK OF EASTER
10.00am

Wednesday 22 April - 3RD WEEK OF EASTER
10.00am

Thur 23 April - ST. GEORGE - PATRON SAINT OF ENGLAND
10.00am

Friday 24 April - 3RD WEEK OF EASTER
10.00am
Mass is followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 25 April - ST. MARK
10.00am

Sunday 26 April - 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
9.00am
11.00am

OUR PARISH

OUR LADY IMMACULATE CHURCH
SEAMOR ROAD, WESTBOURNE,
BOURNEMOUTH, BH4 9AE

Parish Priest: Fr. Leslie Adams
Telephone: 01202 764027

Email: ladams@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
*(Baptism, Marriages, Sick Visits,
Funerals and Confessions)*

Parish Administrator: Peter Murdock-Saint
General enquires and hall bookings
Telephone: 01202 760640
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Safeguarding Officers:
Joan Smithies and Edward Adamson
safeguarding.boush@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Donations: CDP Bournemouth
Our Lady Immaculate
Sort code: 309304 **Account:** 00875075

SUNDAY READINGS

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.*

Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia! Lord Jesus, open the
Scriptures to us. Make our hearts burn within
us when you speak to us. Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon

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

OUR REDEEMER (FROM THE FRONT PAGE)

There is still one more detail that calls for our attention and raises many questions: why did the eyes of the disciples open to recognise Jesus whilst they were at table with him? The Eucharistic context is undeniable. The disciples are at the table; the Lord is with them. He took the bread and, saying the prayer of benediction, broke it. It was during the last action of the breaking of the bread that the companions recognised Jesus. It was not only the action in itself, but finally Cleopas and his friends could see, with their own eyes, the hands pierced by the nails of the passion that until that very movement had remained hidden from them during the long journey on the road.

It was in that very moment in which they recognised the presence of the Crucified One that He *'disappeared from their sight'* whilst their eyes remained fixed on the broken bread that was left to fall *'onto the altar'*. Is it not the same experience that every one of us can have every Sunday?

40 DAYS FOR LIFE LENT VIGIL - Wednesday 18 March - Sunday 29 April. Through prayer and fasting, with a peaceful and respectful presence in proximity of abortion centres (outside buffer zones), we seek to reach women in pregnancy crises, to offer them alternatives to abortion, and both spiritual and practical support. Email: 40daysforlifebournemouth@gmail.com.

PARISH AND DIOCESAN NEWS

MINI-RETREAT DAY OF RENEWAL. Saturday 25 April. St. Joseph's, Christchurch, are hosting the next ADoRE day, including Mass, Adoration, praise & worship, prayer, reconciliation and an inspiring talk by Geoff Poulter. Everyone is welcome either in person at St. Joseph's or via the livestream. Find out more by visiting: www.avonstour.co.uk/adore.

MASS INTENTION. If you would like to dedicate a Mass to a loved one, please speak to Fr. Leslie.

MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION OF THE HOLY FATHER. *For priests in crisis.* Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES. This diocesan pilgrimage will be with Bishop Philip Egan. Monday 6 - Friday 10 July 2026. We will fly from Heathrow Airport. The cost will be £949 per person for a shared room. Youth pilgrims can join us from £895. Please contact: Cn. P.J. Smith on 07780 221 686 or by post to St. Edmunds House, Bishop Crispian Way, Portsmouth, PO1 3QA.

THE SAMARITANS. Call 116 123 for free.

CELEBRATE FESTIVAL 2026. 15 - 19 August. This family-friendly, Catholic event will take place at Worth Abbey, West Sussex, RH10 4SD. This will focus on faith, fellowship, and community. The residential festival features a "*Witness to Hope*" theme, offering Mass, worship, workshops, and age-specific activities. There is a camping site and accommodation is available. Visit the website for further details: www.celebratefestival.org.

STAY AWAKE 2026. This is an all-day Catholic conference with music and worship on 2 May at the Thomas Hardy School in Dorchester, DT1 2ET, 10.00am to 6.00pm. www.stayawakejc.com

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE. 9.00am on Wednesdays.

DECRIMINALISATION OF ABORTION. Bishop Philip has issued a pastoral message to the clergy and faithful of the diocese following the recent vote in the House of Lords on proposed legislation concerning the decriminalisation of abortion. In his statement, he reflects on the dignity and sanctity of human life, encourages prayer for the protection of the unborn, and invites us as Catholics to continue witnessing to the value of every human life with compassion and hope. To read the full statement, please visit the Portsmouth Diocese website.

BOURNEMOUTH AND CHRISTCHURCH PASTORAL AREA PRAYER. *Lord Jesus Christ, you call us to be your witnesses in this area and in this time. Root us deeply in your love, shape us as missionary disciples, and teach us to steward wisely all that you have entrusted to us. Give us the courage to change, the humility to listen, and the faith to trust where you lead. May your Spirit guide our prayer, our planning, and our action, so that all we do may give glory to the Father and draw others to you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*

PLEASE REMEMBER all the sick and housebound in our parish: *Mary Stone, Mike Ellestone, Cecilia Agnes Grimston, Geoffrey Dixon, Christopher Browne, Teresa Wraith, Elizabeth Lubrow and Liz Judge.*

MARRIAGE SUPPORT. www.retrouvaille.org.uk - 0797 338 0443.

TRADITIONAL PRAYER BEFORE A CRUCIFIX. Look down upon me, good and gentle Jesus while before your face I humbly kneel and, with burning soul, pray and beseech you to fix deep in my heart lively sentiments of faith, hope, and charity; true contrition for my sins, and a firm purpose of amendment. While I contemplate, with great love and tender pity, your five most precious wounds, pondering over them within me and calling to mind the words which David, your prophet, said to you, my Jesus: "*They have pierced my hands and my feet; they have numbered all my bones*".

GOSPEL - LUKE 24:13-35

They recognised him at the breaking of bread

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, *'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?'* They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, *'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.'* *'What things?'* he asked. *'All about Jesus of Nazareth'* they answered *'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'*

Then he said to them, *'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?'* Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were

about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. *'It is nearly evening'* they said, *'and the day is almost over.'* So, he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, *'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'*

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, *'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.'* Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

QUOTE OF THE HOLY FATHER. All the Sacraments, and in a pre-eminent way the Eucharist, are nourishment that fosters a holy life. He sanctifies the Church, of which He is the Head and Shepherd: holiness is, from this point of view, His gift, which is manifested in our daily life every time we receive it with joy and respond to it with commitment. In this regard, Saint Paul VI, in the General Audience of 20 October 1965, recalled that the Church, to be authentic, requires that all the baptized must *"be holy, that is, truly worthy, strong and faithful children of hers"*. This is realised as an inner transformation, whereby the life of every person is conformed to Christ by virtue of the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER CORNER. Let us pray that our Easter celebrations may help us experience the wonder of new life in Christ's resurrection, bringing hope and joy to our parish and all our welcome guests.

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