



# Society of African Missions

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 Visit our website  
[www.smafathers.org](http://www.smafathers.org)



## Administration:

**Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,**  
 Provincial Superior  
**Fr Dermot Roache,**  
 House Superior

## Mass Schedule

### Sundays

8:00 am; 10:00 am; 12 noon

### Weekdays & Holy Days

8:00 am; 9:30 am; 11:45 am

### Christmas & New Year's Day

8:00 am; 10:00 am; 12:00 noon

### Confessions

Saturdays 4:30 pm to 5:00 pm

### Bereavement & Visit to the Sick

Contact Fr. Dermot Roache  
 201-567-0450 Ext. 212

### Our Lady of Perpetual Help

#### Rosary

Every Wednesday at 11:00 am  
 Followed by Mass, Adoration  
 and Benediction at 5:30 pm

### The Little Way of St. Therese of Lisieux

2nd Sundays after 12 pm Mass

### Bible Reflection Group

Thursdays: 7:30 pm in the hall

### Perpetual Mass Association

Office open Monday-Friday  
 from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

### S.M.A. Vocation Office

Fr. Julien Esse, SMA  
 551-449-4357

## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

### Masses for the week of APRIL 26 — MAY 2, 2020

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
<b>Sun.-Sat.</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>Liv &amp; Dec Benefactors of the SMA</b>	
Sun. April 26	10:00	Virginia Monroy+	Richard & Lydia
	12:00	William Colon+	Diana Colon & John Tietjen
Mon. April 27	9:30	Patrick Neary Sr+	Neary Family
	11:45	James E. Cronin+	John O'Connell
Tue. April 28	9:30	George Coleman+	Neary Family
	11:45	John P. Farrington	John O'Connell
Wed. April 29	9:30	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
	11:45	Billy Hickey+	The Family
Thurs. April 30	9:30	JoAnn DiPaolo+	Martha DiPaolo
	11:45	Joseph Abitante+	
Fri. May 1	9:30	Special Intentions Neil & Forgrave Families	
	11:45	Special Intentions Stoever & Lukchis Families	
Sat. May 2	9:30	Special Intentions Neill & Forgrave Families	
	11:45	Maureen Hamill+	Sister

**Please note** that the Mass Intentions are being honored in private by our Priests.

**Today's Readings:**  
**First Reading** Acts 2:14. 22-33  
*Peter gives witness to the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, in fulfilment of the prophecy of David that God's holy one would not be allowed to experience corruption.*  
**Second Reading** 1 Peter 1:17-21  
*We are freed from a useless way of life by the ransom paid in the precious blood of the lamb that is Christ.*  
**Gospel** Luke 24:13-35  
*The disciples' hearts burn within them as they talk with the stranger on the road to Emmaus and they recognise the Lord Jesus in the breaking of bread.*

## REFLECTION

Peter and the disciples had been spending their time behind locked doors, for fear of the Jewish leaders. That all changed when the Resurrected Jesus visited them. On the evening of the first day of the week, despite the locked doors, Jesus came and stood in their midst. He said to them, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." Then Jesus breathed upon them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." He also gave them the power to forgive sins. They are now ready. Jesus gives them their mission: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation" (Mark 16:15). In today's first reading, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we see a very fearless Peter who "stood up with the Eleven" and boldly proclaimed the Good News to the Jewish people.

We can learn a lot from the disciples on the road to Emmaus, in today's Gospel. They were fleeing the trouble and events in Jerusalem that had shattered their dreams and hopes. They were downcast and really heartbroken. Then Jesus joins them, though they don't recognize him. Jesus really cares how they are doing. He teaches them, opening their minds and hearts to the incredible truths in Scripture and God's plan as revealed by the prophets. Their hearts are burning within them as they listen to Jesus and come to see the truth. Then, in the breaking of the bread, they recognize that he is the one who is speaking to them about these things.

These days we are very much like the apostles. During this Season of Easter, the Season of the Resurrection, we too are "locked-up" in our 'upper room' unable to share the good news in the way we have. We've been forced to slow down. We have been given time – to think, ponder and pray. Many of us feel that by being in lockdown, we are fleeing trouble and danger. We feel that not only our dreams have been shattered but our lives in general – stripped of all securities. We are now beginning to have our hearts and minds open to certain truths! Since the pandemic began, were our hearts not burning within us?! Mine has been. I am beginning to see my life in Christ very different now.

We also need to open our hearts and minds to the truths in Scripture. It is important for us to spend time praying and reading Scripture! Do we realize the depths of the self-emptying that Jesus did for us, to save us all? He is God, but gave it all up to share fully in our humanity, so He could bring us back to the Father. How great and all-encompassing His Love is! No one is excluded! He is the Beloved Son of God and the firstborn from the dead. He prays for us: "That they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me" (John 17:21). God desires this oneness! We are beloved sons and daughters of God. What is required of us is a wholehearted response to His love!

Although we can't share the Mission of the Gospel in the way we have been, we are still invited to share it! We too have received the Holy Spirit and Jesus is sending us to bring the 'Living Word' to those we meet. Thus, we now need to rely on the Wisdom of the Holy Spirit to be creative in this sharing of the Gospel! Lockdown or not, Proclaim the Risen Lord! Let us be fearless in proclaiming our Faith and living the Gospel in our daily lives.

Fr Dermot Roache, SMA