



Society of African Missions

“The Mission”

23 Bliss Avenue
Tenafly, NJ 07670
Phone: 201-567-0450
Visit our website
www.smafathers.org



Mass Schedule

Sundays

10:00 am; 12 noon

Weekdays & Holy Days

11:45 am

Christmas & New Year's Day

10:00 am; 12 noon

Confessions

By appointment. Contact

Fr Dermot Roache 201-567-0450 Ext 212

Bereavement & Visit to the Sick

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

Perpetual Mass Association

Office open Monday-Friday
from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

S.M.A. Vocation Office

Fr. Eliecer Sandoval, SMA
551-449-4357

Sunday Collection: \$1,216

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support
your local parishes.

NOTE.- Mass intentions still available. The 9:30am Mass intentions are being honored in private by our Priests.

CELEBRATE WITH US!
HONOR A LOVED ONE
BY PLANTING A TREE

For more information,
please call
(201) 567-0450

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
Provincial Superior

Fr Dermot Roache,
House Superior

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Masses for the week of April 18, 2021 - April 24, 2021

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. April 18	10:00	Jan Michalowski+	Richard & Lydia
	12:00	Laura & Virgil Costa+	Victoria Costa
Mon. April 19	9:30	Dec. Members of the Paradis Family	
	11:45	Francis, Joan & Joseph+	Robinah M.
Tue. April 20	9:30	Dec. Members of the Paradis Family	
	11:45	Annie Murphy+	Michael Murphy
Wed. April 21	9:30	Rev. Raymond C. Plourde+	
	11:45	Catherine M. Hamill+	Friend
Thurs. April 22	9:30	Rev. Raymond C. Plourde+	
	11:45	Jack Kenny+	Mae Kenny & Family
Fri. April 23	9:30	Lauren Widner+	Martha DiPaolo
	11:45	Bob McGeary+	Mae Kenny
Sat. April 24	9:30	Rev. Raymond C. Plourde+	
	11:45	Gertrude Mills+	Diane & Mike Bruno

Today's Readings:

First Reading Acts 3:13-15. 17-19

Peter proclaims the good news that God raised Jesus from the dead for our forgiveness.

Second Reading 1 John 2:1-5

Jesus is the sacrifice who takes our sins away.

Gospel Luke 24:35-48

The disciples are stupefied to encounter a very physical Jesus, risen from the dead.

“Touch me and see for yourselves.”

Illustration

There’s a theory in psychology called “cognitive dissonance”. At its heart is the idea that if people try to hold together two contradictory ideas, attitudes or behaviours, then they experience psychological stress (“dissonance”) which they try to reduce or remove at all costs, to make their ideas, attitudes or beliefs consistent with each other. This means that when we do hold conflicting ideas or beliefs, something has to give – one of our beliefs, attitudes or behaviours has to be either abandoned or modified in some way to make it consistent with the other. The theory was first proposed by an American psychologist called Leon Festinger, who in the 1950s studied a religious cult which believed that the earth was going to be destroyed by a flood. Cult members bought into this idea wholeheartedly – giving up their jobs and their homes. When the flood didn’t happen, this set up cognitive dissonance: their belief was in conflict with the facts. But instead of simply acknowledging that their belief in the flood was wrong, some cult members still clung to it, but modified it somewhat. They said that they had been right all along about the flood, but they reinterpreted their belief, to say that the earth had been spared because of the faithfulness of the cult members. Festinger concluded that some people would resolve their psychological stress by blindly believing whatever they wanted to believe, rather than abandon their beliefs.

Gospel Teaching

The theory has been applied by some people to the followers of Jesus. They believed he was the Messiah – that he would set Israel free and establish God’s kingdom. But this was empirically proved to be wrong when Jesus was crucified. According to this theory, Jesus’ disciples were unable to cope with the trauma of the crucifixion and so, rather than abandon their belief in Jesus, they came up with the idea of resurrection as a coping mechanism to help them deal with their psychological stress at his death.

Today’s very unusual Gospel almost seems to have been written as a rebuttal to any idea that the first disciples “invented” the resurrection as a coping strategy. Not only does Jesus appear among them – he asks for something to eat. He’s not a ghost or a figment of their imagination. And the sight of him is described as something terrifying, rather than wishful thinking. Look at the words used to describe the disciples’ experience: “alarm and fright”, “agitated”, “dumbfounded”, “they could not believe it”. Rather than welcoming Jesus with great joy, it is almost as if they have to be shaken out of their disbelief by Jesus. “Touch me,” he says, and he asks for something to eat. Far from clutching at straws to explain away the death of Jesus, they are so immersed in the brutal fact of his death that they are unable to process seeing him in the flesh. There is a stunned lack of understanding among those first disciples, even as they are overcome with joy.

The Living Word

NOTE.- Dear friends,

In this Easter Season when we are steeped in the joy of Christ’s Resurrection and Mercy, we thank God for the continued blessings that He bestows on us. In a particular way, here at the Mission in Tenaflly, we are also thanking the Lord for a very special milestone. This year **SMA celebrates 100 years of service at 23 Bliss Avenue!**

As an effort to mark this great event, we are giving the property a “face lift” by planting a variety of 100 trees that will help enhance the beauty of the grounds of the Mission. It is a big task, but with your help, it will be a memorable one. Each tree we plant will be in memory of a special loved one in our lives.

If you would like to help sponsor us with a **\$250** donation for a tree in memory of a loved one, we will remember their name(s) in a memorial plaque that will be unveiled on the property later on this fall.

Due to the nature of the shrubbery, planting will commence at the middle of April and will be completed by September. We are requesting the donations be received by **May 31st 2021.**

Your friendship has always been a gift to us. Thank you for your support. Fr. Dermot Roache, SMA