

Monday in 2nd Week of Easter – 13th April 2026:

Nicodemus is an intellectual, who reasons and searches for the truth. And yet, his reason is insufficient to understand divine matters until Jesus opens him to humility: *'are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand this?'* Nicodemus, despite his studies is ignorant of heaven and only in accepting humility does he become a dwelling place fit for the Holy Spirit. Now, Nicodemus is ready for Jesus to reveal sacred mysteries to him, for grace has worked upon him so he can begin to understand divine concepts. His conversion is evident at Jesus arrest. Previously, Nicodemus came at night in fear; now he stands before the Sanhedrin objecting to the injustice of condemning a man without a trial. Later, he honours the Lord's dead body, anointing it and giving him proper burial, a prelude to the Resurrection, all showing us of the limitless spiritual horizon offered to Christians who are led by grace and the Spirit.

Tuesday in 2nd Week of Easter – 14th April 2026:

The early Church held things *'in common'*, sharing a communion of faith but there was no compulsion, only a spirit of generosity, people giving their resources to the Church's mission. Unlike atheistic regimes, Christians recognise their life is a blessing from above, wishing to share this grace with others, evident in the charitable second collections throughout the year. We are, though, troubled by Christ's statement, *'you will have the poor with you always'*, reminding us that the Church is not just a non-governmental organisation but the living organism of Christ. Our mission is not to establish an earthy kingdom but a heavenly one, transcending temporal boundaries. It is, then, ok to own property but not ok to be corrupt or exploitative. We appreciate the Christian virtue of solidarity, bearing witness to the Resurrection in Word and deed – and by these words and works of charity, people know that we are Jesus' disciples.

Wednesday in 2nd Week of Easter – 15th April 2026:

There is a difference between our redemption and salvation. Christ's death and resurrection has taken away the sins of the world and opened the gates of heaven for us, but this does not mean we all go straight to heaven. All of us will face a judgement, where we give an account of our stewardship on earth, an assessment of the quality of our faith, hope and love. Each one of us is called to place our trust only in Christ as the way, the truth and the life, for only in him can we obtain salvation. The quality of our charity is the evidence of whether our faith is alive and orientated to heaven.

Thursday in 2nd Week of Easter – 16th April 2026:

The Apostles humbly and boldly remind their judges that obedience to God comes first and so, we can never be given an order to kill the innocent or any other command to break the Ten Commandments or accept a position that goes against the Natural Law. By listening to Jesus and by the power of the Spirit, the apostles have been well-formed in the gospel, able to announce the good news with deep conviction. The challenge for all of us is, how often do we pick up an informed Christian article, attend a retreat / spiritual talk, and take our formation seriously, so that we are able to engage with others who have questions about who they are, where they have come from and where they are truly destined to head towards? Hopefully, we are not reliant on the word searches and colouring we did at First Communion, our last formal catechesis!

Friday in 2nd Week of Easter – 17th April 2026:

As Christians, we put everything we have (even if they are inadequate) at the service of the gospel – the Lord will supply anything that is lacking and make our meagre talents and resources productive. From the smallest of seeds, the kingdom begins to take shape in our life and people grow and flourish as the person God always intended. Frequent reception of the Lord in Word and Sacrament encourages and prevents us from becoming dispirited, but we must never take this gift for granted, examining our conscience frequently to ensure we are properly disposed to receive Holy Communion, the fullness of Christ, whom we are not worthy to welcome under our roof. In our celebration of Easter, if the Lord can conquer the grave, then turning the matter of bread and wine into the Eucharist is a walk in the park and worthy of our devotion, and the greatest respect we can show is to use the nourishment of the Eucharist for mission, otherwise that grace may quickly go to waste in us. But when put to good use, the creation of saints for the kingdom is not far behind!

Saturday in 2nd Week of Easter – 18th April 2026:

The diaconate is a ministry of apostolic origin. By the laying of hands, comes a distinctive (holy) order of service and an integral share of Christ's priesthood. This Order of *'permanent'* diaconate acts as a bridge between the nave and the altar, between the people's material and spiritual needs. As such, deacons make Christ present in their mission of evangelization, catechesis, organization of liturgical ceremonies, and the coordination of the Church's charitable and social welfare work.