

NEWSLETTER

Gospel Reflection

These two stories serve us well as background for the story of the appearance of the Risen One in the midst of the disciples. The Lord arrives when Thomas is out. The disciples are gathered in fear behind locked doors. Jesus appears and fills them with joy. He confers on them a mission and gives them his own Spirit to continue his saving work. Jesus makes his presence and power known to his closest friends and offers them the spirit-gift for the sake of the kingdom. At least that's what the Scriptures tell us.

But Thomas isn't present. He'd just stepped out briefly. Maybe he was doing a grocery run. Perhaps none of the others would put a toe out the door – but not so, Thomas. He ventures forth. He is either fearless or just plain foolhardy – or maybe both, which may be what we also need to be – but that's to get ahead of ourselves.

Thomas returns and they tell him they have seen the Lord – but for Thomas, something doesn't ring true. If they have seen the Lord why are they still locked up tight in that room? If they are filled with such joy, why couldn't he read it on their faces? If they have been empowered by the Spirit of God to "complete Christ's work on earth" as we say in the Eucharistic Prayer – what are they waiting for? For Thomas to return? Surely not, or they would have been so breathless and eager that he would have seen the transformation in their eyes.

So Thomas says to them, in so many words, "I don't find you believable." Thomas – simple, loyal, loving, straightforward, down to earth, direct – who didn't understand but wanted to, who longed to follow Jesus but who needed to know the way -- Thomas didn't doubt the Lord; he found it highly unlikely that the Lord was Risen because he was surrounded by a group of witnesses whom he simply did not find credible. There is an ancient saying in the Eastern Church:

If you want to know if Jesus is really Risen,
look around you at the faces at the Easter vigil.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to make preparations for your child to be Baptised you should telephone Fr Simon to arrange to see him after an 11am Mass on Sunday morning..

Following this there are Meetings on the first Friday of each month at 7:30pm.that you will need to attend, where you will meet Mrs Gerri Doherty and Deacon Tony Ford.

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Diocese of Shrewsbury Registered Charity No 234025



"United in conviction and united
in love, with a common purpose
and a common mind"
Philippians 2:2

23rd APRIL 2017 2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER (CYCLE A) MASS & SERVICE TIMES		
Saturday 22nd April	4:45pm 5:15pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation Kathleen Harrison RIP
Sunday 23rd April	9:30am 11:00am	People of the Parish Joe & Joyce Davies
Monday 24th April	9:30am 7:30pm	Service of Word and Communion SCRIPTURE GROUP
Tuesday 25th April	9:30am 10:30am	Service of Word and Communion Coffee Morning
Wednesday 26th April	9:30am	Service of Word and Communion
Thursday 27th April		No Service
Friday 28th April		No Service
Saturday 29th April	4:45pm 5:15pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation Betty Wyatt RIP
Sunday 30th April	9:30am 11:00am	People of the Parish Special Intention - Gloria Brian & family

If Fr Simon is unobtainable and you urgently need a Priest please
phone the parish mobile: **07548 222133** Please use this number for
emergencies only i.e. where a priest is needed urgently.

200 CLUB DRAW

Winner: £40 Prize
This week – Mr W Matthams

**WHY NOT JOIN THE 200 CLUB
AND HELP THE PARISH?**

FLOWERS FOR THE CHURCH

Flowers this week are sponsored by Mrs C Howell
If you would like to make a donation for the flowers please add your name to the list in the porch and place your donation into the wall box.

SPECTACLES FOR MISSIONS

We are still collecting unwanted spectacles/cases to be sent to the Missions. If you have any that you no longer need please bring them in.

WINGS – Thanks to those who keep bringing in their unwanted Euros and Dollars. If you have any left over from your holidays please put them into the Bottle in the Porch.

MASS INTENTIONS: There will be no weekday Masses whilst Fr Simon is away on holiday. So there will inevitably be a back log of Intentions. Rest assured that Masses for Intentions requested will be said, but there may be some delay.

COFFEE MORNING:

The next one will be this coming Tuesday 25th April at 10:30am.

PARISH RETREAT: We are organising a Retreat in November at Foxhills in Frodsham. Please take a form from the porch and return it ASAP. So far there is insufficient interest to make it viable.

PARISH CENTRE BOOKING ENQUIRIES

If you are interested in hiring the Parish Centre for a function, please contact Derek on - 01606 889048

Prayer for our Parish:

Father, pour out your Spirit upon the people of this parish
and grant us a new vision of your glory,
a new experience of your power, a new faithfulness to your word
and a new consecration to your service,
that your love may grow among us and your kingdom come,
through Christ our Lord.

.....
St Joseph pray for us

Gospel Reading John 20 19-31

Later on that day, the disciples had gathered together, but, fearful of the Jews, had locked all the doors in the house.



Jesus entered, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you." Then he showed them his hands and side.

The disciples, seeing the Master with their own eyes, were exuberant. Jesus repeated his greeting: "Peace to you. Just as the Father sent me, I send you."

Then he took a deep breath and breathed into them. "Receive the Holy Spirit," he said. "If you forgive someone's sins, they're gone for good. If you don't forgive sins, what are you going to do with them?"

But Thomas, sometimes called the Twin, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We saw the Master." But he said, "Unless I see the nail holes in his hands, put my finger in the nail holes, and stick my hand in his side, I won't believe it."

Eight days later, his disciples were again in the room. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus came through the locked doors, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you." Then he focused his attention on Thomas.

"Take your finger and examine my hands.

Take your hand and stick it in my side.
Don't be unbelieving. Believe."

Thomas said, "My Master! My God!"

Jesus said,

"So, you believe because you've seen with your own eyes. Even better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing."

Jesus provided far more God-revealing signs than are written down in this book. These are written down so you will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the



"Preach the Gospel always, if necessary use words"
St Francis of Assisi

Scripture Group - following the Gospel of Matthew, 7.30 - 9.00pm in the presbytery on Monday 24th April