

Gospel Reflection

John is writing to Christians who will never 'see' Jesus with their eyes, their fingers and their hands. So maybe a better translation should be that 'blessed are those who have not had physical contact with Jesus and yet 'see' and believe'?

And actually, we cannot believe in a Jesus we have not seen. We can learn the words, read the stories, follow the instructions. We can hope and we can pray. And we can do that every day, all of our lives. We can be active for social justice, we can live in a Christian culture, we can belong and be involved in a parish - all very good, all very human. Perhaps to believe in the human Jesus - the Nazarene - is enough to make us want to just be better people - as he was 'the best of us'.

We don't need to believe in a Risen Christ for that. But to take the journey that step further - to enter into God, for God to enter into me - I have to *see* - encounter the Cosmic everythingness of Christ. And that is not just with eyes, fingers, hands but with heart and soul and every atom of who I am. Even just once, to know the Presence, to recognise the Absence. To be happy to believe.

Church will re-open on Sunday 11/4/21 for limited numbers. Mass will continue to be streamed until further notice. For mass times please refer to the newsletter, announcements during mass or messages on the parish centre Facebook page. For those attending mass in person from 11/4, you will be expected to comply with the track & trace, hand sanitising and wearing of masks as well following guidance from the marshalls. The Parish Centre remains closed until further notice.

NEWSLETTER

St Joseph's RC Church
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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

11th APRIL 2021 DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY (CYCLE B) MASS & SERVICE TIMES		
Saturday 10th April		
Sunday 11th April	10:00am	Mass
Monday 12th April		
Tuesday 13th April	10:00am	Mass
Wednesday 14th April		
Thursday 15th April	10:00am	Mass
Friday 16th April		
Saturday 17th April		
Sunday 18th April	10:00am	Mass

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 Colin Mackay

WHY NOT JOIN THE 200 CLUB AND HELP THE PARISH?

St Monica's Primary School in Appleton, Warrington

The Governors are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic, committed and inspirational Deputy Headteacher to play an integral part in the further development of our school. You will be a creative and a dynamic professional with a real passion for Catholic teaching and learning.

CES application form, job description and personal specification can be requested by emailing the school office.

E-mail: stmonicas_primary@warrington.gov.uk

Informal visits to school: Tuesday 4th and Thursday 6th May 2021.

Closing date: Monday 17th May 2021 at 10 am

Shortlisting: Monday 17th May 2021

Interviews: Monday 24th May 2021

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 Son of God.



"Preach the Gospel always, if necessary use words"

St Francis of Assisi