

In Touch across North Barrow

Sunday 19th. April 2020 The Second Sunday of Easter

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Worship during the day, alone or with household members

Like newborn infants, alleluia! Long for the pure, spiritual milk, alleluia! so that by it you may grow into salvation, alleluia! alleluia!
1 Peter 2:2

In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Collect for today

Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father.
Grant this, Father, through your Son
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Readings : Acts 10:34-43; 1 Corinthians 3:1-4; John 20:19-31
or during the week from the daily prayer and readings.

The Gospel

20:¹⁹ When it was evening on the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.'²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.²¹ Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.²⁵ So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.'²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.'²⁸ Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' ²⁹ Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Prayers

Almighty and everlasting God,
we thank you that you have brought us safely
to the beginning of this day.
Keep us from falling into sin or running into danger;
order us in all our doings and guide us to do always
what is righteous in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Conclusion

We are raised to new life with Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Seeing is believing

Come and see this. A cry echoing around the vicarage. There is a rumour that tom cats defend their territory. Not ours. The stray tom that has taken to visiting the garden was met by ours not by a fierce face-off, but by a flop-off. He just flopped down onto the warm concrete totally unconcerned that a rival was sitting just a few feet away. At least he is a cat not a guard dog!

We know that the restrictions will be lifted at some point, but still seeing - and knowing- will give substance to that belief. Jesus friends had to see before they believed. It's the story of Thomas especially that spells out what believing in the Easter hope, the Risen Christ, is all about. What we have to do if we are to really believe in Jesus in a way that is personal and impacts our lives.

We have to meet with Jesus. Thomas wasn't there that first Easter evening. He was maybe braver than the rest and was willing to venture out of their lock-down. For him, second faith was not sufficient. He had to see for himself, hear for himself, touch for himself. Easter faith, Christian faith requires a real encounter and a personal faith in the Risen Christ..

We have to confess Jesus. as Lord. Thomas gets a bad press. For all his 'doubting', Thomas actually goes further than the rest of the disciples. They have seen the Lord, but it is Thomas that understands the implications. 'My Lord and my God!' They are not

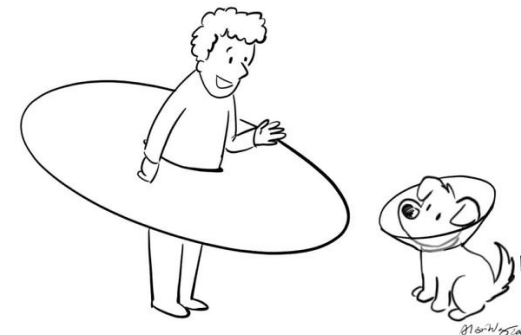
words that would naturally form on Jewish lips, but Thomas understands that the resurrection is the final proof, if any were needed, that Jesus is God, fully divine and fully human. They were risky words for Thomas to speak but they serve as a reminder that following Jesus is a conviction business, not a heavenly insurance policy.

We have to be prepared for a ministry. Solitude marks our present experience, and in the confines of the upper room Jesus teaches and prepares his disciples for the task ahead. None of us know what the future shape of society or the church will be, but God does. Jesus prepares his disciples for their new role and ministry. *As the Father has sent me, so I send you.* When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.

Our faith begins with a personal encounter and decision to follow Jesus, but it can never stay there. We are to be sent out, the lock-down will end, and we need to be ready once more to share in God's passion for rescuing humanity and showing the world a better way.

In the strangeness of this Easter season, and in the quiet of your own homes, will you grow in the belief *that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and through believing you come to have life in his name.*

With love and prayers, *Fr. Jack*



I got the idea from you!

Psalm 16

Preserve me, O God, for in you have I taken refuge; I have said to the Lord, 'You are my lord, all my good depends on you.' All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, upon those who are noble in heart.

Though the idols are legion that many run after, their drink offerings of blood I will not offer, neither make mention of their names upon my lips.

The Lord himself is my portion and my cup;
in your hands alone is my fortune.

My share has fallen in a fair land;
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel,
and in the night watches he instructs my heart.

I have set the Lord always before me; he is at my right hand; I shall not fall. Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices;
my flesh also shall rest secure.

For you will not abandon my soul to Death, nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit. You will show me the path of life; in your presence is the fullness of joy and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

SUNDAY
MONDAY
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY
Reflections during the week using Lectio Divina <i>Use the verse, or verses, for each day following the pattern on the previous page. Each colour corresponds to a day of the week. Write any reflections, or ways in which you feel God is speaking to you in the boxes above</i>

NEWS AND NOTES

Support HUB St Mary's Hospice and AgeUK Barrow have opened a support Hub at the Living Well Centre to offer advice and support to those who are self-isolation within the community. This is **NOT** for medical advice - for that call 111 or 999 in an emergency.

Support Hub 9am - 5pm Mon to Fri. Call 01229 444407

Drop off point for food/ essentials to make up hampers
Living well Centre, Duke Street, Barrow LA14 1XU

Distribution : If you have received this by post and have an email address, please let Fr. Jack know so that we can send it electronically.

Hospital Chaplaincy : Jennet (Methodist Minister) has spoken to Debbie Wilde (FGH chaplain) and she welcomes the suggestion that folk from our churches knit, sew or crochet matching pairs of small hearts, the idea being that one is given to the patient and one to their family as a way of connecting them during their hospital stay when they can't have visitors. If anyone would like to help, then the hearts can come to Fr. Jack, Jennet (or go straight to Debbie at the Chaplaincy department. For the knitters, there is a pattern available at <https://blog.createandcraft.tv/free-knitted-heart-pattern/>
The hearts should be up to 3 inches or 8cm across at the widest point. Hopefully this is one way in which the churches can give some practical support to the hospital.

HELPING OUT : If you are aware of neighbours who are in need a being missed by the current system of support, please let Fr. Jack know so their needs can be met or passed on.

Resources : **The Sunday Worship** video is available on the St. James facebook page from Sunday morning.

Radio and TV : Radio Cumbria Morning Service at 8.00am
CandoFM (106.3) Faith in Furness at 10.30am
BBC Morning Worship at 10.45 on BBC1

For those who are online, the Church of England website has daily and Sunday resources to watch, download and join in with.

The website is : churchofengland.org

DAILY PRAYER and BIBLE READINGS

SUNDAY *We give thanks that* Jesus equips this friends for the transforming work of sharing his love and life with others.

MONDAY Acts 4:23-3, John 3:1-8
Pray for the staff of Furness General Hospital as they treat those suffering most from the virus.

TUESDAY Acts 4:32-37, John 3:7-15
Pray for those working to discover and trial the drugs, vaccines and antibody tests that will help us to overcome this virus.

WEDNESDAY Acts 5:17-26, John 3:16-21
Pray for those we know who are ill or struggling with their mental health during isolation.

THURSDAY Acts 5:27-33, John 3:31-36
(St. George) *Pray for* all who seek to share the message and love of Jesus to our secular nation..

FRIDAY Acts 5:34-42, John 6:1-15
Pray for those families finding it hard to occupy their children during the lock-down, especially for single parent families.

SATURDAY Acts 6:1-7, John 6:16-21
(St. Mark) *Pray for* Fr. Tone Ford and the people of St. Marks in their town-center ministry.

If you have prayer requests / thanksgivings, then please let Fr. Jack know either by email or 'phone.

NEXT SUNDAY

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 9:1-6, Revelation 5:11-14, John 21:1-19