

Sermon Notes: Sunday 27th April 2025

Text: John 20:19-31

Second Sunday of Easter

In the gospel reading we have just heard,
we find a moving account
that speaks to the essence
of faith, doubt, and I think mercy.

This passage,
which relates the appearance
of the risen Jesus to His disciples —
first without Thomas, and then with him —
reveals some deep truths about belief, but also doubt
or if you like ‘scepticism’,
and the path to understanding.

After the Resurrection,
the disciples are gathered, hidden away,
engulfed in fear and uncertainty.

Into this scene of what is despair,
Jesus enters,
bringing peace and showing His wounds,
a testament to his sacrifice and victory over death.

This moment is one that transforms the disciples,
a powerful lesson of how light pierces darkness,
and truth dispels doubt.

Thomas, often remembered as ‘Doubting Thomas,’
embodies the scepticism that is in many of us,
even if we do not admit to it.

His insistence on physical proof of Jesus’ resurrection
is, as we see, not responded to with a rebuke from Jesus,
but with compassion.

Jesus appears again,
inviting Thomas to touch His wounds,
an act of mercy, of compassion,
that shows the real depth of God’s understanding and patience
towards us, as we too struggle to come to terms with Jesus’ resurrection. .

Through this encounter,
Thomas’ doubt transforms
into a declaration of faith: “My Lord and my God!”

This gospel narrative invites us
to recognize that faith,
often understood as a 'journey'
is at times one that we take through a landscape of doubt.

Jesus' response to Thomas
shows us that questions and uncertainties
are not failures of faith,
but opportunities for us to deepen and reaffirm our faith.

Jesus' words,
"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed,"
I think is an invitation to find true belief in his resurrection.
It should encourage us to trust beyond what we can see and touch.

In our moments of doubt and fear,
let us remember that we are not alone.

The risen Christ comes to us,
offering peace,
understanding,
and the invitation to believe.

In this passage,
we are reminded that our faith
is not a stationary experience,
but a dynamic journey,
enriched by our questions
and sustained by the promise
of Christ's presence among us.

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PRAYER...

Risen Jesus,
Your light is the only light we need
as we travel through life's mystery.

Your word the only voice we hear
that still small voice that leads us
to the place where we should be.

Your presence is the only company we need
as we walk this narrow road.

Your fellowship the warmth we crave
to help us on our way.

May the truth of Easter
The joy of Easter
And the blessings of Easter
Be with us this day and all days.
AMEN.