



# 2nd Sunday of Easter

8th April 2018

**Y**ou believe  
because you can see me.  
Happy are those who have not seen  
and yet believe.'

John 20:29

## St Thomas the Apostle

The story of 'Doubting Thomas' is the Gospel of this second Sunday of Easter every year. The Apostle was not present when Jesus first showed himself to the apostles. He refused to believe the others when they told him that they had seen the Lord.

When Jesus appears a second time to the apostles he meets Thomas just as he is and accepts him without complaint or criticism. He tells Thomas to put his fingers into the holes the nails made in his hands and feet, Thomas' reply was '**my Lord and my God.**' Jesus responds with the words quoted above.

John, in his Gospel is writing to all his readers who have not seen the risen Jesus:

*These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.* John 20:31

## The Season of Easter A Fifty Day Feast

### Year B

In this cycle of the Church's year (Year B) the Sundays of Easter follow the same pattern:

- **2nd and 3rd Sundays:** Appearances of Jesus after his Resurrection.
- **4th Sunday:** The Good Shepherd
- **5th Sunday:** The True Vine
- **6th Sunday:** Love one another
- **7th Sunday:** Preparing for the Spirit.
- **Pentecost Sunday**

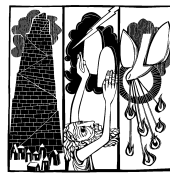
### 1st Readings

In all three Years of the cycle the first reading is always from the Acts of the Apostles and gives us a description of the life and beliefs of the early church.

### 2nd Readings

In Year B the second reading is from the first letter of St John. (In Year A it is from the first letter of Peter, in Year C it is from the Apocalypse).

**Ascension Thursday** This year the feast will not be transferred to the following Sunday but be celebrated on its traditional (and scriptural) day 40, days after Easter Sunday.



EASTER

## FAITH IN FOCUS: A BOUT OF DOUBT

Sounds like the flu, doesn't it: a bout of doubt? Yet we all suffer from it from time to time. It's as natural as catching a cold and is one of the trials we have to put up with once we take our first steps of faith.

We can doubt whether our Christian faith is worthwhile when we see the way that others behave, inside and outside the Church.

Yet we know that if we shoot the messenger then we are not going to hear the message. The Church has always been full of sinners; that's what it's for. And although we sometimes wish it were otherwise, we realise that a Church of sinners means a ragbag of individuals who, no matter how weak they might be, are committed to making Christ known. And of course we are part of that ragbag.

At other times we can experience confusion about the basis of our faith. Does God really exist? How do we reconcile the fact that God is creator with all the new discoveries of science and the many theories that seek to show the origins and development of the world and human life?

And then there are the tragedies of our existence. Perhaps we wonder about the role of a loving God when we read about natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis or famines. And has there ever been anyone who has not had their faith tested as they witnessed the slow death of a loved one, the sudden shock of losing a friend or the heartache of marital break-up?

Doubt does not attack faith. It's actually part of faith. It's a sign that we have not left our brains at the church doorstep and are mature enough to want to reconcile what we believe with what is happening around us.

A faith that has not experienced doubt is a faith that has not learnt to walk, to be bold and to think for itself. Yet, like Thomas in today's gospel, we have to learn that at the heart of faith is belief in the unconditional and unbreakable promises of God. We are all called to our Calvaries but we ascend the mount trusting in the knowledge that God will never leave us in the grave.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen.  
And Christ will come again.**

Parish Priest: Fr John Southworth

## Gift Aid Boxes

New boxes are available at the back of OLMC church. Please take your box before Mass so that you can place your offertory offering in it.

In the next few weeks we will have a presentation on Gift Aid to encourage more people to Gift Aid their contribution. Anyone who pays tax on their income can Gift Aid and the parish receives 25p for every £1.

## An Evening of Music by Joanne Wallace with Martin Fletcher

This concert which was due to take place at St Patrick's Church this week **has been postponed** to a date later in the summer. Watch this space.

## OLMC - Repairs to the porch

The work will be done by the same firm who did the work on the roof, it will begin on 23rd April and will take about 4 weeks. Masses and services will not be affected, nor will funerals.

## Adoremus: National Eucharistic Congress

### Holy Hour—This week

The next Holy Hour is at **St Anthony of Padua Church, Allerton, Thursday 12th April at 7.30pm**. This will be led by Archbishop Malcolm McMahon. Because of this there will be no Thursday evening service at OLMC.

**With You Always** Children receiving their First Holy Communion are asked to stay behind with their parents after each of our Sunday Masses for a short practice. There is one remaining preparation session for each school and those from other schools:

- Holy Family 17th April
- St Patrick, 18th April (Both in school at the usual time)
- St Finbar and other schools on 9th May.

The first Communion Masses will begin on 29th April.



## Cathedral Choir recruiting— Boys and Girls

The Cathedral is inviting **boys in year 2 or 3**, and **girls in year 5** to come along to our *Be a Chorister for a Day* events on Sunday 6 May (boys) and Sunday 24 June (girls). Anyone who enjoys singing and working in a team can find out what is involved in being a chorister in our Cathedral.

**Boys Make Noise** There is also a new singing group for boys in Year 2 and 3 which takes place on Wednesdays from 5.15-6pm.

For more details for all these days see the posters on the notice boards.

## Ordinations

On Saturday 7th July Archbishop McMahon will ordain to the priesthood Philip Carr, Anthony Kelly and Carl Mughan who will then be appointed to parishes in the Archdiocese. They will be ordained in the Cathedral. The Archbishop has invited 5 representatives from each parish to attend the ordination.

Anyone who would like to attend this ordination should contact me; as there are only 5 places we might have to draw names out of a hat.

**The Holy Spirit in John's Gospel** A series of talks take place at the Irenaeus Project 32 Great Georges Road Waterloo L22 1RD from Friday evening 13th April – Sunday 15th April.

John Southworth

## MASSES AND SERVICES

### In Church this week

Requiem Masses this week:

- Monday at 9.30am at OLMC
- Thursday at 10am at OLMC
- Friday at 12.30pm in St Patrick

All of them replace the usual Mass time and church.

## 2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER

### Sunday 8th April

Sat 5pm	Parishioners	OLMC
Sun 9.45am	Vincent Merutia	St Patrick
Sun 11.15am	Alan Parris	OLMC

### Mon 9th April

9.30am **Requiem: David Rice** OLMC

### Tue 10th April

7pm Rita Blue and Family OLMC

### Wed 11th April

10am Ernest Sands St Patrick

### Thu 12th April

10am **Requiem: Kathleen McLoughlin** OLMC

### Fri 13th April

12.30pm **Requiem: Terry Carney** St Patrick

## 3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER

### Sunday 15th April

Sat 5pm	Joan Walsh	OLMC
Sun 9.45am	Parishioners	St Patrick
Sun 11.15am	Peter Benger	OLMC

**Evening Service:** Holy hour led by the Archbishop at St Anthony of Padua. Because of this there will be no service at OLMC.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 4-4.30pm

## Bonus Ball / Mount Carmel and St Patrick

The bonus ball for Wednesday 28th March: No 45.

## Collections .....Many thanks

**OLMC** Loose £282.61 Envelopes £176.90  
**St Patrick** Envelopes £0 Loose £250.30  
Total £710.81

**Please Pray For.... Those who have died:** Daniel Rice, Kathleen McLoughlin, Terence Carney

**The sick:** Betty Flannery, Tony Robinson, Carol Pickford, Betty Billingsley, Sharon Gray, Tommy Duffy, Mary Frances, Audrey McKenna, Ian McCafferty, Betty Christian, Bernard Duffy, Helen Melarange, Jack Davies, Joan Higgins, Michael McNicholas, Billy Thompson, Freya Matheson, Rene Humphreys, Clifford Browne, Gary Hollinson, Jackie Heath-Anderson, Ted Cunningham, Anne Deuchar, Charlotte Rice, Irene Finneran, Lisa Balshaw, Mary Kewley, Claire Kearney, Lyn Barton, Betty Devine, Kathleen Devine, Joseph Baxendale, Ann Chapman, Nadia Kent, Susan Roberts, Alex Sielski, Lee Foster, Denise King, John Dunning, Emily Rolands, Angela Kent, David Majoury, Donald Smith, Pius Laizer, Maria Jones, Mary O'Toole, Sally Wilkins, Michael Murphy, Margaret Chung, David Stevenson, Thomas & John Paul Conroy, Keith Holden, Kathleen Crowny, Joanne Fairbrother, Eileen Edwards, Erin Caulfield, Lisa Ginley, Lillian O'Connor, Owen Hall, Anne Brannigan, Thelma Mainwaring, Cheryl and Lenny Hart, Sheila Chapman, Elaine Gorry, Alexandra Reid, Winifred Williamson, Kathryn Reid, Wally Williams, Chrissy White, Nicholas Maher, John Hodson, Terry Macklin, Muriel Minshull, Maureen Ryan, Mary Ryan, Regna Lewis, David Shea, Steven Binks.