



2nd Sunday of Easter

28th April 2019



You believe
because you can see me.
Happy are those
who have not seen
and yet believe.

John 20:29

Doubting Thomas

Easter Sunday lasts for 8 days! Every day in the octave of Easter is a celebration of Easter.

At Mass on this second Sunday we read the Gospel of St John telling us of the first meeting of Jesus with the apostles.



Thomas is not present; when they tell him that they have seen the Lord once again we have another example of this apostle's incredulity which has given him the nickname of Doubting Thomas:



Unless I can see the holes the nails made...I refuse to believe'

which prompted Jesus' response in the quotation above. This should come as no surprise to us as we read at the Easter Vigil Mass when they treated the story of the women who had seen the empty tomb as 'pure nonsense'.

Synod Prayer

**Father, we thank you
for the love you have shown us
in the gift of Jesus, your Son.
We thank you for the gift of the Church,
through which you show us
that you are always with us
and are always at work in our lives.
As we journey together to Synod 2020
help us become the Church
That you are calling us to be.
May your Holy Spirit
be powerfully at work among us.
Strengthen each of us and guide Francis,
our Pope and Malcolm, our Archbishop.**

**Help us to respond
to the challenges of our times in new ways
to bring your love
to all our sisters and brothers.
We make this prayer
through Jesus Christ Our Lord.
AMEN**



FAITH IN FOCUS: SHALOM

After the tumultuous events of Holy Week, Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and his subsequent trial and execution, where were the disciples? Not out on the streets preaching and teaching, not mounting a campaign to prove the innocence of the dead Jesus, but all huddled together in a rented room with the doors locked.

They were afraid. Perhaps they feared that the guards would come and look for them as they had done for their master. The gospel simply says the doors were locked "for fear of the Jews". What Jesus says to them, when like a ghost he appears in the locked room, is "Shalom". They would have known this to be the usual greeting which people exchanged on meeting. Yet Jesus says to them a second time "Shalom".

Shalom doesn't simply mean "peace". It means that deep-down feeling of health, prosperity, security and freedom. It is a positive thing rather than just the absence of disquiet. Shalom is that unshakeable sensation that we are held in the palm of God's hand and nothing can ever separate us from him.

When we feel afraid or disquieted it's a comfort to know that even the disciples found it hard to be calm all the time. When we begin to doubt the substance of our faith, when we become discouraged and think we're getting nowhere,

Jesus has one simple word for us: "Shalom". Faith in the risen Lord does not mean that everything becomes rosy, that we wander through life with no problems or concerns. You could argue that the more a person believes, the deeper the questions and doubts that arise. But what it does mean is that we are able to view the same realities from a different perspective, through a different lens.

The fact that Jesus is risen from the dead means that we no longer face things alone. We no longer are held in the grip of anxiety and fear.

Jesus rose not to abandon us but to be by our side. He is as present to us today as he was in that room with the disciples. And, whatever our fears are, his presence offers us Shalom.

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With You Always: Please keep those children from St Patrick's Primary School, received the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time, yesterday in your prayers. We pray for blessings on them and their families, and everyone who helped to prepare them.

Holy Family

First Holy Communion Mass will be on Saturday 4th May at 11am in OLMC.

St Finbar's & Other Schools

Preparation meetings: Tuesdays at OLMC at 3.30pm on 30th April & 7th May.

First Holy Communion Mass will be on Saturday 18th May at 11am in OLMC

Pastoral Associate News: Thank you to St Anthony's for sharing their Eucharistic celebrations with me this weekend. The next weeks ahead are very much taken up with Synod preparations as we come together to listen to each other as we share our joys and hopes for our future as a Catholics in this Archdiocese of Liverpool. The Theological talks on the *Nature of the Church* at St Charles and St Thomas More are starting on Tuesday 30 May and more information can be found on synod202.co.uk A day's workshop on 'How do we accompany people today?' led by Bill Huebsch is being held at St Joseph's Wrightington on Friday 10 May and at LACE on Saturday 11 May. Bill will help us to explore this important aspect of parish life and will introduce us to the new pastoral theology emerging in the era of Pope Francis. If interested please contact 0151 522 1040 or email formation@rcaol.co.uk . In the aftermath of Sri Lanka – a quote from Johann von Goethe: Christianity, though scattered and abroad, will in the end gather itself together at the foot of the cross. God Bless, Helen.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Today we welcome to God's family and our parish community Isabella Rose and Charlotte Nicola Vickers who will be baptised in Our Lady of Mount Carmel church this Sunday.

Please remember them and their family in your prayers.



Mass Books:

Pope Francis is passionate about the environment – you may have read his encyclical "Laudato Si" (Praise be to you). We are trying in our own small way to cut down the amount of paper we use and printing we do, so will be using Mass Books where possible. It's a small effort in caring for the world in which we live, but each modest step will help bring about a greater change.

MASSES AND SERVICES

In Church this week

- Requiem on Thursday
- Please note the Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament Service will be at **6.30pm** Every Thursday.

Sunday 28th April

2nd Sunday of Easter

Sat 5pm	Bridget Collins Joyce	OLMC
Sun 9.45am	Parishioners	St Patrick
Sun 11.15am	Patricia McDonough	OLMC

Monday 29th April

9am Georgie Fitz OLMC

Tuesday 30th April

7pm Eddie O'Rourke OLMC

Wednesday 1st May

10am Thomas Willmitt St Patrick

Thursday 2nd May

12noon **Requiem:** John Simpson OLMC

Friday 3rd May

10am Steve McNeilis OLMC

Sunday 3rd May

3rd Sunday of Easter

Sat 5pm	Parishioners	OLMC
Sun 9.45am	Patricia McDonough	St Patrick
Sun 11.15am	ThePintos Family	OLMC

Evening Service

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
6.30pm every Thursday
OLMC

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday 4-4.30pm OLMC

Bonus Ball / Mount Carmel and St Patrick

There was no Bonus Ball last week.

Collections

Many Thanks

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Loose £281.80

St Patrick Loose £229.62

Envelopes £197.50

Holy Places £150.63

Please Pray For.... Those who have died John William Simpson and Pauline Long.

The sick: Michael McNicholas, Jayne O'Toole, Michelle Baxendale, Tommy Fletcher, Bernadette McGee, Michael Foley, Irene Milson, Maureen Rossario, Joe Schofield, Doris Kelly, Edie Turner, Daniel Crawford, Caroline Flannery, Bernadette Fennell, Edna Tate, Jimmy Tierney. Betty Flannery, Tony Robinson, Carol Pickford, Betty Billingsley, Tommy Duffy, Audrey McKenna, Ian McCafferty, Betty Christian, Bernard Duffy, Helen Melarange, Jack Davies, Joan Higgins, Billy Thompson, Freya Matheson, Rene Humphreys, Clifford Browne, Gary Hollinson, 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, 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 Crownly, 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, Muriel Minshull, Mary Ryan, Regna Lewis, David Shea, Steven Binks.