

## Theme of the Week - He stood amongst them

This week, on Thursday, we celebrate our school Feast Day, St Joseph the Worker. And as members of this St Joseph's school community, our mission is 'Unlocking Belief in All'. And what a fitting Gospel we hear from on Sunday. Jesus through touch, unlocks belief to Thomas. Absent when Jesus first appears to the disciples on the day of the resurrection. Jesus appears as they, the disciples, quake in fear inside a locked room. He bestows on them the Holy Spirit and the commission given to them to go out with authority to forgive sins. It is an experience of both total transformation and of responsibility. In Jesus' second appearance eight days later, Thomas is the central figure alongside Jesus. Thomas' absence requires him to believe on the testimony of others - a situation that he struggles with. His doubt is understandable, and Jesus does not judge him harshly. It is through the invitation to touch the wounds of Christ that Thomas' great acclamation of faith is born.

On a daily basis, we are called to believe on the testimony of others and this requires a degree of faith that Jesus recognises in a special way. The doubt of Thomas is transformed by his encounter with Jesus and he is empowered to be sent out to share the good news, just as our parish Priest says to us at the end of Mass, 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord'. But also through your time here at St Joseph's; we will all **unlock our belief** by demonstrating our school virtues of being: *Intentional and Prophetic, Compassionate and Loving, Grateful & Generous, Faith-filled and Hopeful, Learned and Wise, Attentive and Discerning, Eloquent and Truthful, Curious and Active*. When Jesus was arrested and put to death, the disciples were very afraid and had run away and left him. But Jesus forgave them and wanted them to know that he would always be with them. Even then when Thomas showed doubt, Jesus did not become angry or left him out, he forgave his doubt and showed to him who is was. Thomas went on to preach the Gospel as far east as India - he took up the responsibility to share the good news.

So this week we are asked to take up this challenge. Have there been times of doubt in your life, where you have questioned yourself or your loved ones? What dispelled that doubt? The sense of touch is a powerful force, though many people are reluctant to reach out to others because of cultural restrictions or a fear of being too personal. Yet many people are starved of a touch that can bring healing, comfort, support and acknowledgment. Try to bring our mission and virtues to others when we go out into the community so they too can encounter Christ through you! Happy Feast Day!

# He stood amongst them

Weekly Reflections  
27<sup>th</sup> April 2025  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter



## From the Gospel of John (20: 19-31)

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.'

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord'. But he said to them, 'Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.'

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

## Prayer for the Week

Dear Father,

Be with us as we pray.

Open our ears to hear your Word in the Gospel.

Unite us in faith, hope and love as we pray together.

Send your Holy Spirit to inspire and sustain us in our mission.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

### Day 1

Why do you think Thomas doubts the other disciples' account of seeing Jesus?  
How does Jesus unlock Thomas' belief?

### Day 2

How are we sometimes like Thomas in lacking belief from others?  
How can we be more like Thomas in our transformation from Mass to go out and spread the Good News?

### Day 3

How can you use and show our school virtues to stop others doubting the true meaning of Christ?

## Catholic Social Teaching - Peace

Today the world has a profound thirst for peace. In many countries, people are suffering due to wars which, though often forgotten, are always the cause of suffering and poverty." **Pope Francis, 20 September 2016**

Peace is not just the absence of war. It is part of God's nature, and a value we should all seek to live out in our daily lives.

"Inner peace is closely related to care for ecology and for the common good because, lived out authentically, it is reflected in a balanced lifestyle together with a capacity for wonder which takes us to a deeper understanding of life." **Pope Francis, Laudato Si', 225**

How this half term can you promote Peace in all that you do in St Joseph's and society?