

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD



Joyfully serving Jesus

Weekly devotions, prayers and news
The Second Sunday of Easter (Low Sunday)

Alleluia! The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!



St Thomas the Apostle

My dear friends,

Well, another three weeks of careful social distancing, and undoubtedly a much longer and more nuanced return to some semblance of normality. This will have consequences on all sorts of fronts, not least on the whole sense of communal life both in terms of church and the wider community. Yet as people of faith in Jesus Christ, we are called to acknowledge that we have the ultimate knowledge of the way in which we deal with these concerns as well as the daily distressing news. The answer is the knowledge of the abiding love of Jesus Christ.

Sunday's Gospel reading focuses on Thomas. His is a rollercoaster journey following the Lord, but ultimately he finds the fulness of life itself in the Risen Christ. Thereafter we understand that Thomas seeks to offer the richness of this life to all he comes into contact with. This is also our call as members of the Body of Christ. Our own baptisms are the start of a life-long journey 'unwrapping' the gift of the fulness of life revealed through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, a life which is our privilege to share with others in whatever way we can.

I do hope that many are finding our worship online as helpful as I do. We have certainly been on a sharp learning curve and yearn to be together again physically, yet have experienced blessings! Do check the church website for new material. We are gradually adding orders of service for our regular worship and other devotional opportunities. There are also excellent resources for families and children. Please check the website for an appeal in aid of the St Peter & James Hospice in Wivelsfield drawn to our attention by Gerry Larnar.

During the week, a member of our congregation celebrated her 105th birthday, and in a phone call to another parishioner, I was told, 'I not feeling as well as I would wish....but then I am 99,' My goodness, what a wonderful example to us all! Please remember that if there is anything I can do, do contact me. The details are on the website.

With my love and prayers for you all at this Eastertide,

Michael (*Vicar*)

Please check the church website for details of services etc.: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

The Second Sunday of Easter: 9.45 - Parish Family Eucharist Services during the week

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (Common Worship)

Thursday: 9.00am Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic)

Friday: 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

Next Sunday: Easter III

9.45am Parish Eucharist for Eastertide

All services live on Zoom: Link: <https://zoom.us/j/2471610099?pwd=SWVlQWVxYkk4VjZkRkdXMm1WMEljQT09> Click on the link on the front page of the church website before services and you will be admitted—you enter a waiting room and then join everyone.

The Collect for Easter II

Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred;
open the door of our hearts,
that we may seek to good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father,
who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
ever one God,
world without end. Amen.

A prayer for this time of anxiety:

God of all compassion, your love never fails.
Help us to listen to the tranquillity
of your presence within our lives,
so that we may grow in the knowledge
that your Son, Jesus Christ, walks beside us,
and your Holy Spirit comforts us
at the heart of our being;
for you are One God,
world without end. Amen



John 20: 19-end.

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the authorities, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

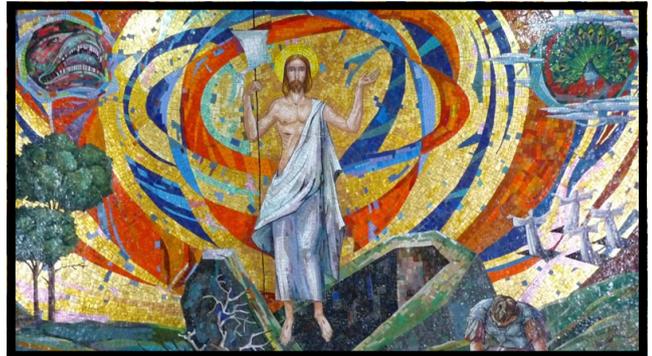
A thought

I have always found the final words of Chapter 20 of John's Gospel very moving, because they seem so personal - directed at each one of us - with again that sense (as I said last Sunday) of being called individually by name as Mary Magdalene was in the garden of Resurrection. John writes so that we might have life in the name above all other names - Jesus. There may seem a finality to the closing words of the chapter yet we have another chapter to go - also with a wonderful ending. There is speculation that Chapter 21 was added (albeit very soon after the Gospel was written), but we will never know for certain - and it doesn't really matter anyway. What really matters is to allow oneself to be caught up with the Good News of Jesus Christ and to become part of the story oneself. What do I mean by this? Is this possible? Absolutely. Look at Thomas!

Today we have Thomas questioning the Resurrection before the wonderful encounter he has with Jesus. A few chapters back, he is professing that he will accompany the Lord into a dangerous area even if it means dying with him. Then at the Last Supper he is questioning the journey Jesus is leading the disciples on: 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' He is all over the place! All this makes Thomas so relatable to us. You will note in this Gospel reading that before Thomas turns up Jesus breathes on the disciples. This is John's Pentecost - the gift of the Holy Spirit. Thomas doesn't allow this inward working of the Holy Spirit take root until his own encounter with the Lord. Note that, contrary to most paintings of this moment, we don't actually know that Thomas took up the Lord's offer of touching the wounds. We just have that wonderful exclamation: 'My Lord and my God.' The response of the Lord speaks directly to us, 'Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.' The richness of this moment is the knowledge that we, like Thomas, are indeed part of the story; and that through following the one who is 'The Way, the Truth and the Life,' we begin to find out who we are truly called to be.

Michael

Loving God, our Father,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ
you have assured your children of eternal life
and in baptism have made us one with him;
deliver us from the death of sin
and raise us to new life in your love,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen



Please remember those for whom we pray:

Immediate Need: Archdeacon Fiona, Susan Arnaouti, Ken Taylor, Robert Norris, Rev. Sandra Hall, Mark Parker, Eileen Knight, Michael Hilton, Yvonne Godsmark

Long Term Need: Young Georgia, Young Joshua, Julia Settle, Young Reggie, Ros Ayling, Wendy, Ann Went, Vi Muddle, Jean Simmons, Dave Cox, Jenny, Julie Sadler, Becky Parker, George Snashall, Tony Burbidge, Christopher, Jenny, Jane Terry, Marjorie Chilton, Anne Norris, Alan Prebble, Stephanie Gilpin, Marilyn Archbold, Jill Rockey, Janet Card, Jocelyn Bentley

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Jenny Hudd and The Rev Pauline Lucas

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 19th Sam Leigh, 20th Janet Cuddeford, 21st David Parry, 22nd Cyril Seymour-Robinson, Ena Gill, Peter Cripps, Ida Foster, 23rd Bob Salter, Alfred White, Nicholas Bugden, 24th Marjorie Salter, 25th Mark Walklin, Leslie Holt