

Beaminster Area Team

God our Father, renew our hope. By the Holy Spirit's power, strengthen us to pray readily serve joyfully and grow abundantly rejoicing in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Week: 11th April, 2021, Second Sunday of Easter

Old Testament: Exodus 14: 10-end

Psalm: Psalm 133

New Testament: Acts 4: 32-35

Gospel: John 20: 19-end

Reflection on the Gospel reading, by Revd. Chris Luckraft

I find that story one of the most reassuring of the resurrection stories. Thomas is the saint who we probably feel closest too. It is said of saints that they're all right in heaven, but hell on earth, but Thomas is the exception – here is a saint we can identify with because he is incredibly human – how often have you said “I'll believe it when I see it.” Like Thomas “Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails and place my finger in the mark of the nails and place my hand in his side, I will not believe.” Seeing is believing we say, oh yes, we like Thomas, we feel comfortable with him – he's like us – seeing is believing.

As in any court case, the credibility of the witnesses is crucial – if you don't trust the witness, then you won't believe their story, but if you do trust them you will believe them and accept the story as fact. And that is why Thomas is so important – he is so believable precisely because he didn't believe and had to become a real live witness – his testimony has all the ring of truth. Interestingly enough, the story does not say that Thomas actually did put his fingers in the nail marks or his hands in Jesus' side. As soon as Jesus says go on do it, Thomas says “My Lord and my God” seeing and the spoken word are enough for Thomas to be convinced and to believe.

Collect for Second Sunday of Easter

Almighty Father,
you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

A Useful Telephone Link from The Church of England. This is a free number where you can listen to prayers, reflections and hymns and join in worship with others.



Worship to enjoy at home

BBC Radio 4, 8.10am, Sunday Worship; Songs of Praise BBC1 1.15pm