

Doubting Thomas Believes....

I wonder would it be right to suggest that after Judas who betrayed Jesus, Thomas is perhaps the least liked apostle and follower of Jesus. After all he had been with Jesus for three years during his public ministry. He heard Jesus speak and teach. He had seen and experienced some of Jesus' most power miracles. He had prayed and eaten with Jesus on numerous occasions. And yet, Thomas still doubted that Jesus had risen from the dead. I do feel sorry for him. He is forever known as the one who would not or could not believe. He wanted and needed concrete evidence that Jesus had indeed risen and was alive.

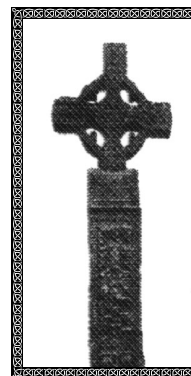
After his resurrection, Jesus continues to appear to his friends and followers. Through appearing to the men and women who were his friends and followers, he encourages and strengthens them; he calms their fears. When he appears to them, he says, **Peace be with you, do not be afraid.** Thomas is not with them when Jesus appears. The others tell him that Jesus had appeared to them and spoke to them. But he does not believe and he is not convinced and so 'Doubting Thomas' is born.' I think we have to be careful about over criticising Thomas for his apparent lack of faith. Perhaps we should admire and applaud him for his honesty and conviction. He is honest with himself and others. He desperately wants to meet and experience the risen Jesus for himself.

He is not the only one who doubted that Jesus had risen. When Mary Magdalene told the others that she had met the Risen Lord, none of them believed her. In fact, most if not all the followers of Jesus doubted.

When Jesus does appear again, he asks Thomas to touch and put his finger into his wounds. Then he can have the proof he needs to believe. But the gospel doesn't say that Thomas did this. Instead it tells us that he cried out loudly, *'My Lord and my God.'* This is the prayer of someone who believes, not someone who doubts.

None of us go through life without struggles and doubts. There are times when we are at our weakest, whether physically, emotionally our spirituality. Difficult as it can be, we have to believe and trust that Jesus is with us just as was with Thomas. Jesus is always with us, especially when we feel we are most alone and doubting. When we are struggling to believe, it can help to realise that we are not in control and neither are we on our own. It can be a time of growth for us as we reach out and ask God to help us with our doubts and whatever we are struggling with.

When have these doubts, may we have the faith and courage of Thomas. Like him, may we say with courage and conviction, **My Lord and my God.**



Parish of Clones

Sacred Heart, Clones
St Alphonsus, Connors
St Macartan's, Aghadrumsee

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11th April
2021

Second Week
of Easter

20c

Masses and Intentions for the Week

Second Sunday of Easter

Divine Mercy Sunday

Vigil 10th	7.30pm	John & Annie Kerr & O'Reilly Family, Legar Crescent & Kerr Family, Fairview
Sun 11th	10.00am 11.30am	People of the Parish Mary Kelly (1st Anniversary) & Eamon Kelly, NTB Rd; Jimmy Sheridan, Clonkeencole (1st Anniversary)
Mon 12th	10.00am	Mass of the Day
Tue 13th	10.00am	Mass of the Day
Wed 14th	10.00am	Michael Moore, Clonboy
Thur 15th	10.00am	Mass of the Day
Fri 16th	10.00am	Mass of the Day
Sat 17th	10.00am	Mass of the Day

Third Sunday of Easter

Vigil	7.30pm	Edward, Eileen, Ellen & Pat Kelly, Clones; Margaret Foy, Beechgrove & Rosie & Francie Burns, O'Neill Park
Sun 18th	10.00am 11.30am	Barry Faux, Cornagague Una Maguire, Carn Gardens (Month's Memory); Mary Reilly, O'Neill Park (Month's Memory); Felix Flynn, O'Neill Park (1st Anniversary)

Sacred Heart Church Readers:

Sat 17th	Vigil	Marion Love
Sun 18th	11.30am	Leo Rooney

St Macartan's 18th April

Reader	Sheila Maguire
Eucharist Minister	Ella Crudden

Death: Please pray for Michael McDonnell, McCurtain Street