

CATHOLIC PARISH OF WESTBOURNE NEWSLETTER



24 April 2022

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

BELIEVE IT

Thomas said, *'I won't believe it until I see it.'* If Mark the Evangelist had been in the room he would have asked, *'What is it that you don't believe? Do you really doubt that God could raise the martyred Jesus? Or is your problem that you doubt that sin can be forgiven?'*

Mark would ask that because long before John wrote his Gospel, he popularized the story of the paralytic who was healed and forgiven when his friends brought him to Jesus. The way Mark shared that story demonstrates that refusal to forgive paralyzes everyone. It freezes the offenders in their worst moment and builds an impenetrable wall around the heart of the offended, a wall designed to keep even God from breaking through.

If we listen to today's Gospel with the long view in mind, we'll see that it's much like the Christmas narrative, the creation myths and the history of Moses and the people of God. The story line is the same: God's love is unquenchable. God comes offering humanity forgiveness, peace and integrity, over and over again.

That's hard for us to accept. We want to earn our own way; we fool ourselves into thinking



that we can handle our own failings and even judge others' wrongdoing. John depicts refusal to believe, barred doors and fear, to assure us that the risen Christ is capable of breaking through any barriers we put up to protect ourselves from being overwhelmed by grace. Bolts, gates and walls are powerless to restrain Christ, but he won't force us to recognize and accept him. As he did with Thomas, Christ takes us at our word and invites us more.

Thomas had the integrity to say, *'I'm not there yet,'* and that was a proclamation that he wanted more faith than he had. Thomas appears today to call us to integrity and the humility to be forgiven and to forgive.

Visit our website: www.catholicwestbourne.org

MASS TIMES

Sunday 24 April - 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

9.00am

11.00am

Tuesday 26 April - ST GEORGE'S DAY

NO MASS

Wed 27 April - 2ND WEEK OF EASTER

NO MASS

Thursday 28 April - 2ND WEEK OF EASTER

NO MASS

Friday 29 April - ST CATHERINE OF SIENA

NO HOLY HOUR

NO MASS

Sunday 1 May - 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

9.00am

11.00am

OUR PARISH

**OUR LADY IMMACULATE CHURCH
SEAMOOD ROAD, WESTBOURNE,
BOURNEMOUTH, BH4 9AE**

Parish Priest: Fr Leslie Adams

Telephone: 01202 764027

Email: ladams@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

*(Baptism, Marriages, Sick Visits,
Funerals and Confessions)*

Parish Office (Wed 9.00am - 12.00pm)

Parish Administrator – Suzanne Quinn

General enquires and hall bookings

Telephone: 01202 760640

Email: oliadmin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Safeguarding Officer: Matthew French

Email: mail@matthewfrench.net

SUNDAY MASS READINGS

Entrance Antiphon - 1 Pt 2: 2

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

Gospel Acclamation - Jn 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon - Cf. Jn 20: 27

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

PRAYER FOR PEACE IN RUSSIA AND UKRAINE

Loving God, we pray for the people of Ukraine and Russia, for all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them. We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices. We pray for the world, that in this moment of crisis, we may reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need. May we walk in your ways so that peace and justice become a reality for the people of Ukraine, Russia and for all the world. Amen.

UKRAINE The Diocese, through Caritas, is working to keep parishioners informed as to the current situation while we wait for the UK Government to clarify the role that faith organisations and other charities will play in the formal response to refugees entering the UK.

Please look at the Caritas website for the latest news and updates on the crisis. Thank you for your continued support and prayers for the people of Ukraine in their hour of need.

<https://caritasportsmouth.org.uk>

PARISH NEWS

SAFEGUARDING Please be assured that we take the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults very seriously and adhere to Diocesan guidelines at all times. Our safeguarding representative has a special responsibility for promoting good and safe practices in all activities involving children, young people and adults at risk. Our safeguarding representative is Matthew French. He can be contacted at mail@matthewfrench.net. Ruth Attfield is our Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator. She can be contacted by calling 023 9421 6486.



EASTER DAY COLLECTION MESSAGE Thank you for your generous gifts to me. *Fr Leslie*

YOU ARE INVITED We have been invited to the Westbourne Rotary Club Queen's Jubilee street party to be held in Lansdseer Road, Westbourne from 1.00pm to 5.00pm on Sunday 5 June. As numbers are restricted, please add your name to the list on the noticeboard if you would like to attend.

KEEPING SAFE Please continue to sanitise your hands and wear face coverings, if possible, at Mass. Please refrain from attending church if you are unwell.

UNIVERSE CATHOLIC WEEKLY Try this online newspaper for free for four weeks. Contact Michelle on 0743 661 7650.

PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES Bishop Philip Egan will be leading the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes and invites you to join him. It will take place from 18 - 22 July 2022. www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/lourdes or email lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or phone 07780 221686

EASTER EDITION OF VIVA VOCE The Easter edition of our quarterly Diocesan newsletter is at the back of our church. This bumper edition has a special focus on what some of our parishes, schools and families are doing to celebrate Easter. There is also an item on the Synod, as well as news from Caritas. Canon John Cooke discusses the importance of parish welcome and hospitality, and there is a special schools feature on Passion Plays. Make sure to collect your copy!

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

You can donate directly into the bank account:

**PRCDTR Bournemouth
Our Lady Immaculate**

Sort code: 309304 Account: 00875075

Thank you for your continued support.

PRAYERS PLEASE

Please remember all the sick and housebound of our parish especially:

Teresa Wraith,
Win Sheridan, Kathleen Wood,
Phillip Rockford, Germain McAulay,
Geoffrey Dixon, Joe Bonnici,
Marjorie Lee

Eight days later, Jesus came and stood among them

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, *'Peace be with you'*, and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, *'Peace be with you'*.

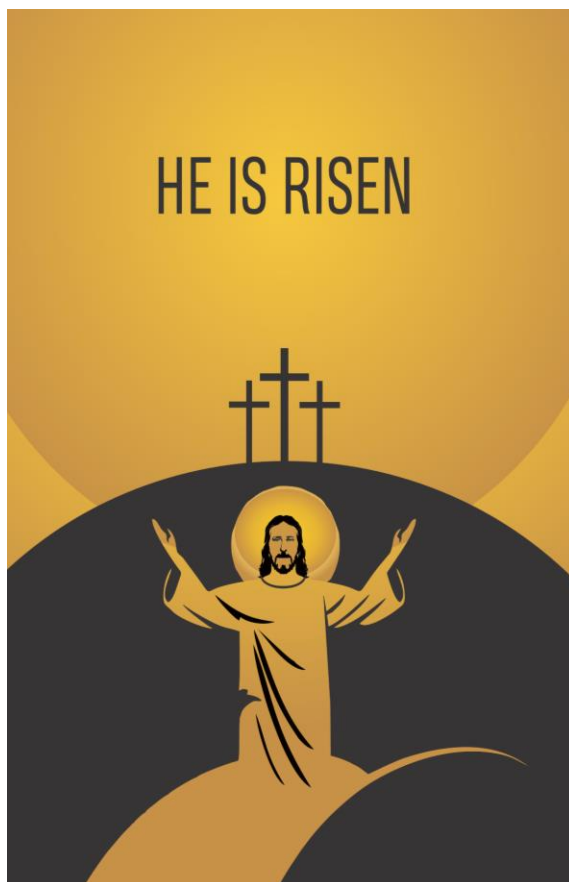
'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said: *'Receive the Holy Spirit.'*

For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, *'We have seen the Lord'*, he answered, *'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.'*

Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. *'Peace be with you'* he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, *'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.'* Thomas replied, *'My Lord and my God!'* Jesus said to him: *'You believe because you can see*



me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.