

Gospel commentary for 2nd Sunday of Easter

The Gospel reading today is about the appearance of Our Lord to St Thomas. We tend to think of Thomas as a rationalist, who carefully weighs evidence. But is this the real basis of his doubt? Perhaps Thomas did not doubt that Christ could rise from the dead; but he could not believe that he would. He had seen miracles aplenty carried out by this man. Most specifically, he had seen Lazarus raised from the dead. Thomas' problem with Christ rising from the dead was because he believed that he was God. Why would Jesus return to them? Why would he come back to people who had let him down? Why would he return to a world that not only rejected him but put him to death? To believe that Jesus is risen is to believe that he has forgiven us. Thomas doubted the resurrection because he doubted God's mercy. To accept mercy requires trust, which is why it is so hard to forgive by human powers. So often in families it is this lack of trust that forgiveness is real that prevents reconciliation. Thomas finally understood that God is too great to be merciless, and that God is the measure of God's own mercy.

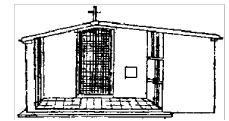
We are called to love with the love of the Father which is within us. We are called to forgive with the mercy which God has shown us, and which is within us. Such love and such mercy is always more than can be generated by human power. So to truly forgive and to truly accept forgiveness requires prayer. Praying for our enemies is not an aspect of forgiveness; it is the fundamental way to forgive.



St. John Fisher
Wellington



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Parish bulletin for Sunday 8th April, 2018



Parish mission statement: Our mission is to witness, in our daily lives, to the presence of the living Christ in our parish and local community. To this end, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are a people grounded in the sacraments and prayer, in the Word of God, and in the teachings of the Church.

At Wellington unless noted

Mass this week:



2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)	Sunday	8th	9.00am	<i>Wiveliscombe</i> For the parish
			11.15am	
Annunciation	Monday	9 th	9.15am	
	Tuesday	10 th	9.15am	
St Stanislaus	Wednesday	11 th	9.15am	
			9.45am	Rosary
	Thursday	12 th	10.00am	<i>Wiveliscombe</i>
	Friday	13 th	9.15am	
	Saturday	14 th	NO	MASS
3rd Sunday of Easter	Sunday	15 th	9.00am	<i>Wiveliscombe</i>
			11.15am	For the parish

Confessions: Usually Saturday 10.30 – 11.00am

Readers / Communion ministers:

Sun 8th 9am: Mark Yvon, Tim Lunn/Mary Crabtree, Adrian Kellett
11.15am: Julia Tucker, Steve Tapsfield/John Nutt, Alma Hamilton
Sun 15th 9am; Grey Hunt, Mary Hutchings/Anita Abrams, Yvonne Hunt
11.15am: Julia Tucker, Steve Tapsfield/Jon Nutt Alma Hamilton

Hymns for 11.15am Mass

Ent:778 ; Kyrie said; Gloria:48; Gifts:255; Holy Holy:50; Mem acc:50;
Amen50 ; Agnus Dei:51; Comm: choir, Recess: 728

**Psalm response: Give thanks to the Lord for his is good,
for his love has no end.**

Tea/Coffee after 11.15am. Mass: Sun.8th: Jackie O.
Sun 15th: help needed

Collection: Cash: £597.68 + direct debits c.£350

Please pray for SICK: Mary Wallace, Kathleen O'Connor Joy Bellekom, Mary Hutchings & sick in our hospitals & nursing homes around the parish.

ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH: Sean O'Donoghue, Thomas Wyse, Derek Gubb

General

Fr Ikeokwu says "thank you very much for your generous offerings at Easter. May God bless and reward you abundantly"

Red boxes are now due for collection. Please bring them into church over the next few weeks and remember to collect your Spring magazine

too! Any problems please contact Chris Walkers on 01823 662808. **Evangelist Magazine**, produced by students of St John's Seminary, Womersley. It is hoped that this will encourage prayer and promotion of vocations to the priesthood.

Coming Events

CTinW: 1. Bible Society AGM: 16th April at Millway Chapel at 7.30pm. See poster in porch

2. Spring Meeting 17th April 7pm at United Reformed Church hall.

Scriptural reasoning workshop: 21st April, 9.30 – 4pm. for those interested to reflect on the scriptures, which will be focused on the Bible and Qu'ran. Details on poster in porch.

Pope Francis: his vision and our future. Series of 3 lectures, 24th April, 26th June and 19th September, giving time to look back, assess and think ahead. Led by Fr James Harvey and Austen Ivereigh. All at St John's church, South Parade, Bath at 7pm.

Day with Mary; 28th April at Clifton Cathedral. See poster in porch.

Youth Ministry: 29th April, young people aged 16 – 30 are invited to pilgrimage to Birmingham entitled Hidden Treasure, for 1 day. Details on poster in porch.

Getting married soon? Engaged encounter weekend, 12 & 13 May in Bristol at St James' Priory, is a unique occasion to prepare more fully for your future married life together. This weekend is non-residential. Information and booking at <https://wwme.org.uk/marriage-encounter/> or Gregory & Fabienne Fauvarque on 0166682572, or famille.fauvarque@gmail.com

Pilgrimage to Knock: this is a fully escorted pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland., from 1st July. See poster in porch for full details and contact numbers.

Living your Faith: Summer camps. See poster in porch. Further details and application forms available from Fr Ikeokwu or the parish office.

Diocesan Lourdes pilgrimage, 24 – 31 August. See poster in porch for details.

Eucharistic Congress – Liverpool, 7 – 9 September, entitled "Adoremus". Please see Fr Ikeokwu if you are interested in attending.

Year of Mission Second Sunday of Easter

As the Father send me, so I send you! These words of the Risen Christ draw the disciples into a new mode of being. They are not simple followers any longer; they are touched and anointed by that outpouring of the Spirit to be the very mission of Jesus. His work is now their work. As he was sent, so now he

sends and they are to be caught up in continuing to proclaim Good News in all they do. His is a work of peace-bringing and of healing and forgiveness. And then we encounter Thomas who has to touch the wounds of Christ in order to believe. In that simple gesture of Thomas we are reminded of the mission to reach out and touch the woundedness of those around us and to leave them having encountered peace. May the wounds and brokenness of those we encounter this week know the healing balm of Christ's mercy and his compassion through us and through the peace we breath upon them.

