

## EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

### SEEING

#### EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

##### *Reflecting on the Gospel*

###### *The risen Jesus (John 20:19-31)*

John's Gospel portrays Jesus coming and standing among his disciples on the evening of Easter Day. Thomas, who was not present when Jesus came, refused to believe without proper evidence. A week later (the second Sunday of Easter) Jesus came and stood among his disciples again. This time Thomas was there and Jesus provided him with the evidence he needed. Thomas saw and heard and touched the risen Jesus, and then he believed. But Jesus said 'Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

One image through which to explore reflection on this passage is *seeing*, seeing things in a different light for ourselves.

##### *Extracts from the Gospel passage (John 20: 19-31)*

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve,  
was not with them when Jesus came.

So the other disciples told him,

'We have seen the Lord.'

But he said to them,

'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands,

and put my finger in the mark of the nails

and my hand in his side,

I will not believe.'

##### *Gospel prayer*

Risen Lord,  
you made yourself known to doubting Thomas.  
When we, too, are surrounded by doubts,  
help us to see your face;  
for you are alive and reign for ever.  
Amen.

## **ENGAGING WITH THE THEME AT HOME**

### ***Reflecting and meditating***

Reflect on John's account of Jesus coming and standing among his disciples:

- what details in the passage catch your attention?
- what big ideas does the passage spark in your mind?
- what most touches your heart in the passage?
- what most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage?

### ***Thinking and talking***

- what is special about the timing, 'evening on ... the first day of the week'?
- why are the disciples behind locked doors?
- what is important about Jesus' initial greeting, 'Peace be with you'?
- what do you make of Thomas' reaction when the others spoke of their experience?
- what changed Thomas' mind?
- what does this narrative say for us today?

### ***Using your Bible***

The encounter between Jesus and the disciples in John 20: 19-31 is distinctive to John's Gospel. Compare the accounts in Luke's Gospel and at the end of Mark's Gospel, but be aware that Mark 16: 9-19 is thought to be a later addition to Mark's original text.

- Luke 24: 36-43
- Mark 16: 9-14

Explore key ideas from the Old Testament that resonate with the Easter narrative:

- Psalm 118: 14-24
- Job 19: 23-27

### ***Exploring online***

- look up the famous painting of Doubting Thomas by Caravaggio (1602)
- look up '7 prominent Christian thinkers who wrestled with doubt'

### ***Drawing on experience***

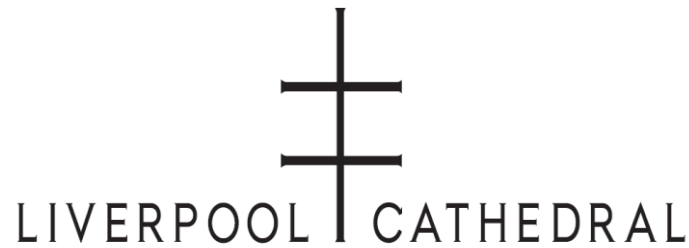
- what are your experiences of 'seeing and believing'?
- when have you believed something without seeing?
- is it possible to test everything by seeing for yourself?
- in what do you ground your experience of Jesus?

## THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A) SUNDAY 19 APRIL 2020

### *Creating and making*

- make a collage of pictures or photos that help you to see things differently
- create a celebration of Thomas as the Saint who grows through doubt
- take the theme 'seeing is believing' and assemble pictures of evidence for Jesus' presence and activity in the world
- create a reflection, poem, or prayer exploring Christian doubt

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A) SUNDAY 19 APRIL 2020



## **EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME**

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

Our invitation then is for you to share your reflections, prayers and photos of your creative work with the Cathedral by emailing them to [Nelson.Pike@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk](mailto:Nelson.Pike@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk)

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales and the St Christopher's College Trust.



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