

SEEING ISN'T Believing BELIEVING IS SEEING



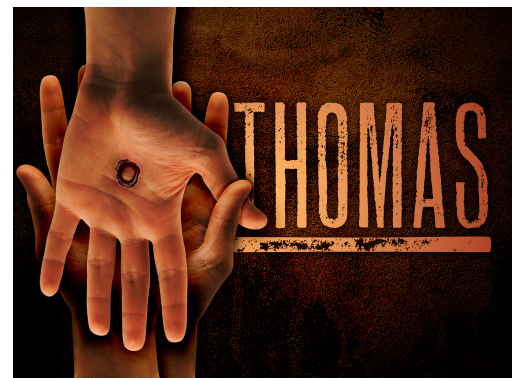
WORD OF THE WEEK

On the evening of the same Sunday (the day on which Jesus rose from the dead) the disciples were afraid of the Jewish leaders, so they locked themselves in a room. Suddenly, Jesus appeared in the middle of the group. He greeted them and showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they became very happy.

After Jesus had greeted them again, he said, "I am sending you, just as the Father has sent me." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they will be forgiven. But if you don't forgive their sins, they will not be forgiven."

Although Thomas the Twin was one of the twelve disciples, he wasn't with the others when Jesus appeared to them. So they told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But Thomas said, "First, I must see the nail scars in his hands and touch them with my finger. I must put my hand where the spear went into his side. I won't believe unless I do this!"

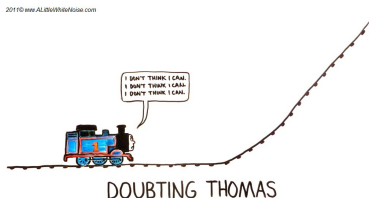
A week later the disciples were together again. This time, Thomas was with them. Jesus came in while the doors were still locked and stood in the middle of the group. He greeted his disciples and said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands! Put your hand into my side. Stop doubting and have faith!" Thomas replied, "You are my Lord and my God!" Jesus said, "Thomas, do you have faith because you have seen me? **The people who have faith in me without seeing me are the ones who are really blessed!**" John 20:19-29



SOMETHING TO DO

Draw a picture of an alien.
Then draw a picture of God.

Notice how much easier we find it to draw a picture of an alien, even though nobody has ever seen an alien! But we have a God with a human face – Jesus! Think of ways in which you can get to know him more this week.



Something to think about...

Belief is a popular theme in stories and films. Think of the belief that children have in the stories of Santa Claus or even the Easter Bunny! There is something powerful and compelling in the idea of having faith in something or someone. In most of these stories, belief makes all the difference. It makes something crucial happen or fail to happen. For Catholics, having faith does make all the difference. Even though we struggle with the particulars, having faith is like saying “Yes, God! I believe in your love for me!” When we can say that, a road of adventure opens up before us, a journey beyond our imagination. Think about Thomas in this week’s Gospel. How different would his life have been without faith? What work was God able to accomplish through him, and the other disciples, because they said, “Yes, I believe!”? What work might God accomplish through you because you say “Yes, I believe!”? Many of the great saints had doubts and questions and spoke about them quite freely. Just like there can be no resurrection without the cross, there can be no deep faith without the struggle of doubt. If we never ask the questions, how can we get to the answer.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Abba God, Risen Jesus, Holy Spirit – fill us with Easter joy, that we might trust in your overflowing love which overcomes all doubt and fear. Grant us Resurrection-faith which enables us to say, with Thomas, “You are my Lord and my God!” We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Risen Lord. Amen.



PRAY WITH THE POPE!

Pope Francis wants us to pray this month for YOUNG PEOPLE - that they may respond generously to their vocations and seriously consider offering themselves to God in the priesthood or consecrated life.

See the POPE VIDEO at www.thepopevideo.org.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK?

MONDAY is the feast of St George – the patron saint of England! Say a prayer today for all who govern and lead our country.



On FRIDAY we mark the feast of St Catherine of Siena with a special extended assembly for all in CATHERINE forms, at 8:45am in the Arts Theatre.



Join us also on FRIDAY for BREAKFAST WITH GOD in the Junior Dining Room at 8:30am – come along for free tea, toast, and a moment of reflection. All are very welcome!