

Reflection Easter 4

Continuing the occasional theme of "Stations of the Resurrection", I'd like us to step back a couple of weeks to Easter Day itself:

The first Easter Day

Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

"Mary turned round and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir if you have carried him away tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary'. She

turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabboni!' (which means Teacher)." Jn20 14-16

Often our difficulty lies in recognising the obvious when we are not expecting it - seeing Jesus close to us, in the people around us. We mistake their identity. Yet when we are named and name others in turn, such mistakes fall away and we can discover who we really are, and encourage others to be themselves, without a mask.

Lord, help me to find you in all different kinds of people, to allow their reality to be present and to have the courage to be real myself.

Fr David



NEXT SUNDAY 25.05.25 Sixth Sunday of Easter
10.30am in the Church followed by APCM

READINGS: OT Acts 16: 9-15
NT Revelation 21: 10, 22-22.5
GOSPEL John 14: 23-29



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St Thomas, Exeter

18th May 2025

Fifth Sunday of Easter

10.30am in the Church

Today

Sung Eucharist

Hymn Numbers

309 Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour

4 A new commandment I give unto you

372 O Jesus, I have promised

Tuesday 20th May

7.30pm House Group. The Turin Shroud

Wednesday 21st May

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

12 noon Jean Pamela Street's Funeral

Thursday 22nd May

9.30—11am St Thomas Tots

10.30-12noon Knit & Natter. 19 Maple Rd
Details from Jenny. 01392 498725

Friday 23rd May

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting

Saturday 24th May

12.30pm Ladies Lunch at the Royal Oak



Collect

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Acts 11: 1-18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?' Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth." But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved." And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them

just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?' When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.'

Revelation 21: 1-6

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.' And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.'

John 13: 31-35

When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved

you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

Post Communion

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen

Notices

We are revising the **Year's Mind list** as it has become rather lengthy. We recognize that it is a sensitive matter and all those currently on this list from the year 2000 will be retained automatically. If you would like an older St Thomas name kept on this list please contact Ian or Fr David. Please note that if your relative or friend was a worshipper at Emmanuel or St Andrews, there are no dates with these names. So please speak to Ian or Fr David even if the date is 2000 onwards.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting takes place on **Sunday 25th May** after the service. There are vacancies for 1 Churchwarden and 3 PCC members. It is most important that we have 2 Churchwardens and a full PCC especially during the Interregnum as there are decisions to be made relating to the building and financial matters. For information and nomination forms please see Ian.

Cleaning the Church Volunteers are needed. Areas can be cleaned whenever it suits as long as there are to least two people. Speak to Ian.

The House Group meets fortnightly on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in the month at Helen's house. For details see Mic or Ian.

Hospiscare 100 Miles in May: our churchwarden, Ian Totterdell, is taking part in Hospiscare's fundraising event '100 Miles in May'. This will involve running, cycling (and swimming) a total of 100 miles during this month. If you would like to support him, please visit <https://justgiving.com/page/ian-totterdell-3> or speak to Ian at a Sunday service.