



THE WAIKATO CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST PETER

Te whare karakia matua o Pita Tapu ki Waikato

Dean The Very Rev'd Wendy Scott



Dean's Message for the Second Sunday of Easter (Low Sunday):

So many of us can identify with Thomas, he seems to be the disciple who's so human at this time, if I can't see it with my own eyes I won't believe it!!!

Here we are today faced with the question that we all have to answer through faith. The writer of Hebrew's puts it beautifully. "Now faith is the assurance of what we hope for and the certainty of what we do not see." (11.1) or when Paul writes in 2 Corinthians (4.18) "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

What I have come to understand more in this lockdown period about myself is that I have strongly drawn from my feeling side. My feelings of experiencing the Easter story in lockdown was profound, the forced nature of having to present the story in a different way made me examine my heart much more closely that I think I had ever done. I saw and experienced things with different eyes. Because of that my faith was made stronger.

I pray that we will all use this time to examine what truly matters in our lives and deepen our relationship with the risen Lord, so we can claim his blessing because we do not see yet believe.

Arohanui, Wendy.

Prayer resource for the Second Sunday of Easter (Low Sunday) 19.04.2020

As we gather again in spirit, together yet apart, united in the love of our Risen Lord, let us pray for the world, for others and for ourselves.

There are many strands in today's Gospel. John describes two more occasions when Jesus appears to his disciples. On both, the wounds in his hands and side are significant; Jesus speaks of peace, of sending, and of belief, and Thomas, the first to do so in John's Gospel account, acknowledges Jesus as his Lord and his God.

*'You show me the path of life. In your presence there is
fullness of joy'* *Ps 16:11*

Read today's Gospel slowly and carefully, two or three times, taking particular account of any words or phrases which stand out for you.

'When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." 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." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." '

John 20:19-31

Thinking about the words or phrases which struck you, imagine yourself in the upper room.

- What is the mood? On the first night? A week later?
- How do you react to Thomas before and after Jesus second appearance?
- What does the gospel say to you about faith, about trust?

Conclude with the following prayer:

Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have broken the power of death and brought life and immortality to light; grant that we who have been raised with him may triumph over all temptation and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory; though him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen

Readings set down for today:

- Acts 2:14a, 22-32;
 - Psalm 16
 - 1 Peter 1:3-9
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- How do you think they connect with the reading from John?
 - Can you identify similar themes running through today's text?

Prayer Points:

Each Sunday we pray for our world, our country and our own needs.

Please pray: God in your mercy, hear our prayer

I want to commend to you undertaking a daily rhythm of prayer at this time, it can help give you a sense of grounding for your day especially while we're in isolation. There are a number of options on the diocesan web site. If you don't have access, sitting quietly at 9am & 7pm, lighting a candle, reading the scriptures, (the daily readings are provided here for you, praying and giving thanks for the ways God has blessed your day.



Check out our Facebook and website for updated information

**St Peter's Cathedral,
Hamilton**
www.stpeter.org.nz

Morning Prayer for the week commencing 20th April		
Monday 20th April: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalm 19 • Exodus 15:1-21 • Colossians 1:1-14 	Tuesday 21st April: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalm 8 • Exodus 15:22 - 16:10 • Colossians 1:15 - end 	Wednesday 22nd April: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalm 30 • Exodus 16:11 - end • Colossians 1:15 - end
Thursday 23rd April: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalm 28 • Exodus 17 • Colossians 2:16 - 3:11 	Friday 24th April: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalm 61 • Exodus 18:1-12 • Colossians 3:12 - 4:1 	Saturday 25th April: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalm 84 • Exodus 18:13 - end • Colossians 4:2 - end

For our children:

Check out the STRANDZ website: www.strandz.org.nz