

LORDSBRIDGE TEAM OF CHURCHES



Second Sunday of Easter – 11th April 2021

Read John 20.19-31

You may like to use this material as a basis for discussion in your family.



As a result of today's gospel reading the disciple Thomas is usually referred to as "Doubting Thomas" which seems a bit unfair – because he showed a great deal of commitment and faith in Jesus.

In another part of the gospel, it is Thomas who says that the disciples should go with Jesus to Bethany when Lazarus is at the point of death – even though this was considered to be dangerous. Thomas recognises the risk but says that they should go with Jesus.

It is also Thomas who speaks up later when Jesus is trying to explain what is about to happen to him. Thomas says, "We don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus replies with the wonderful phrase "I am the way, the truth, and the life". Thomas is prepared to question.

Thomas's final role is played out in today's gospel reading. He's not in the upper room when Jesus first appears to the disciples, so once again he questions the situation. But when Jesus appears for a second time Thomas proclaims "My Lord and my God" – he has seen and believed. Perhaps he should be referred to as Believing Thomas.

What helps you to believe in something? Is it seeing for yourself? Or experiencing something for yourself? Do you ask questions if you don't understand something? We can sometimes do experiments to test if things are true e.g. science experiments. It is hard to test our belief in God. But we can ask questions, like Thomas, and so understand God better.

What would you ask Jesus if you had the chance?

Activities

- Sometimes it's hard to explain something to someone else. It can take several attempts before they understand the truth of what you're saying. Find a picture of an animal and let one person look at it without showing it to the other person. Then ask them to sit back to back. The player who looked at the image will now carefully describe it without saying what the image is; the other player will draw what is being described. The idea is to see if the person drawing can identify the animal and draw it from the quality of the description. You could also do this over a video call or on the phone.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, we often have questions.

We don't always find an answer,

but we know we can trust you with the worries inside us.

Help us to look to you when we are unsure. Amen.