

# Pew Sheet for 2nd Sunday of Easter

19<sup>th</sup> April 2020

In many churches today is known as 'Low Sunday', the tension of Holy Week and the joy of Easter Day have passed and we wonder what will happen next, what will the empty tomb mean for us. Canon Janice has offered a few thoughts on our Gospel passage for today which can be [found on the church website](#).

Starting this Sunday (19<sup>th</sup>), Bishop Peter will be posting on the diocesan website a weekly video reflection based on the day's Eucharistic readings.

The upcoming Sunday Bible readings will be posted on the website on the Thursday beforehand to allow people an opportunity to reflect on the text in advance of the Bishop's sermon, the video will then go online every Sunday morning.

Accordingly, the readings for this coming Sunday (Easter 2) that the Bishop will be reflecting on are:

Acts 2: 14a, 22-32

John 20: 19 – end

**To follow on from our Lent observances why don't you sign up to 'Easter Pilgrim: The Lord's Prayer'. This is a series of 40 day reflections taking us through to Pentecost.**

**Sign up on-line at [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org)**

**Although these have already begun it isn't too late sign up and continue our faith journey.**

The island community continues to pull together through this crisis and a new group has been set up to make sure no one is left without the assistance they need. This group, **Helpout.im** are currently seeking volunteer Telephone Operators to act as the first point of call for those seeking support within the Community and to Sign Post them to those who can provide that support. Operators will work from home on a rota basis, giving as much time as they wish, using technology provided by Manx Technology Group. Full training will be given and there is full back up from an experienced team.

Volunteers for this role should hold a current DBS check.

**Further details can be found on the website <http://www.helpout.im/>**

## **ROOTS Resources**

The ROOTS community comprises churches, organisations and individuals, in the UK and across the world - all using ROOTS resources to enrich worship and learning in their communities. Our parish sometimes use their material as we prepare our services and activities. Now that face-to-face gatherings have been suspended, ROOTS is offering additional resources to use at home. **These are fun, informative, prayerful and easy to use so give them a go using the links below:**

- [Roots: Adults at Home](#)
- [Roots: Families at Home](#)

## Daily Bible readings for this week

Please join together with me for prayers at 9am and 6pm daily.  
Where two or three are gathered, if in spirit rather than physically, God is present.

<b>Day</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>	<b>Evening Prayer</b>
Monday	Psalm 19 Exodus 15: 1-21 Colossians 1: 1-14	Psalm 139 Deuteronomy 1 v3-18 John 20 v 1-10
Tuesday	Psalm 8 Exodus 15: 22 – 16: 10 Colossians 1: 15-end	Psalm 104 Deuteronomy 1 v 19-40 John 20 v 11-18
Wednesday	Psalm 30 Exodus 16: 11-end Colossians 2: 1-15	Psalm 33 Deuteronomy 3:18-end John 20 v 19-end
Thursday <b>St. George's Day</b>	Psalm 146 Joshua 1: 1-9 Ephesians 6: 10 - 20	Psalm 3 Isaiah 43 :1-7 John 15: 1-8
Friday	Psalm 61 Exodus 18 v 1-12 Colossians 3: 12 – 4:1	Psalm 118 Deuteronomy 4: 15-31 John 21: 15-19
Saturday <b>Mark the Evangelist</b>	Psalm 148 Isaiah 62: 6-10 Acts 12:25 – 13:13	Psalm 45 Ezekiel 1: 4-14 2 Timothy 4: 1-11

### Time to pray...

We continue to pray for:

Paul Lemaire, Jenny Ingham, Fleet & Joan Simpson, Bert Winckle, Tanya Thompson, Maud Dawson, Richard Beaumont, Mary Stevenson, Joan Brain, Sally Lister, Eddie Corkill, Wilf Corkish, Les Edwards, Pat Killip, Dee & Mark Whitlock & Elaine Quayle.

RIP Revd Canon John Sheen

Also, we hold in our prayers all those in our communities who are vulnerable or struggling: the elderly, the isolated and lonely, single parents, those who are ill or depressed, those stressed and anxious, the poor and needy, and those who are grieving the death of a loved one.

We pray for all our Island Community facing disruption and isolation as we seek to stop the spread of the Coronavirus.

We pray particularly for our health services, for their protection and safe keeping as they serve others so tirelessly, and we pray for ourselves that we may continue to help and support others, that no one on our Island may feel isolated or alone in this crisis.

Further afield we place into Gods' Loving care the hundreds of thousands of people across the world now affected by the Coronavirus. We pray for the spirit of wisdom, generosity and compassion to guide all world leaders and those with responsibility for the logistics of both infection control, and financial security as society across the Western World goes into lockdown. And we hold before God the poor and the vulnerable, the refugees and homeless, those living in slums and poverty who are already suffering through sickness, hunger and deprivation, who have no immunity to disease, no sanitation, no water and no medical care that they may be spared from yet more suffering.

# Something to hold on to

Caroline Hodgson *reflects on* Acts 2:14a, 22-32 and John 20:19-end

Today we read about Peter's Spirit-filled preaching of the Gospel message to the crowd in Jerusalem. A close reading reveals that he isn't telling people what they should believe or how they should live, so much as bearing witness to Christ's birth, life and death as the fulfilment of prophecy and the working out of God's saving promise to humankind. It's up to the individual listener to accept it or not, and many of them do. By verse 41, which is part of next Sunday's reading, we learn that, "Those who welcomed his message were baptised, and that day about three thousand persons were added". Peter's words, which referred to the prophecy they would have known and longed to see fulfilled, gave his listeners something tangible to hold on to, and they believed.

In John's Gospel we meet the resurrected Christ, who confronts Thomas' doubts head on. Do we imagine that Jesus was somehow ghost-like after his death and resurrection – a kind of hologram, perhaps? Yet Thomas is invited to "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side." Even after death, Jesus is a physical presence among the disciples – the real, tangible working out of God's promise. He is the fulfilment of ancient prophecy and much more besides.

In accepting the message they heard from Peter and in being baptised those three thousand people became the physical body of Christ. And so it is today, here, over two thousand years later. Jesus is physically present among and within us, the body of Christ. Let's just allow the awesome reality of that to sink in. 🙏



Resurrected Lord, ever present among us, teach me to accept the amazing responsibility of being your body, your hands, your feet on earth. Amen.

## Stations of the resurrection

Station 13:  
Thomas meets his Lord

by Richard Greatrex

The disciples' need for certainty is focused now on one man – Thomas. He probably wasn't the only one with doubts, nor the only one requiring concrete, physical proof. He was just the one out of the room when Jesus first appeared. So his doubt provides a second opportunity for them all to be convinced.

Scripture doesn't say whether Thomas actually puts his fingers in the scars, or his hand into the spear wound. Whatever occurs is enough to elicit Thomas' declaration: "My Lord and my God!" Whether he makes this response on behalf of the whole group or it is his own personal insight is not easy to tell. Certainly, the pool of believers who encounter the resurrected Jesus is growing – first Mary Magdalene, then John and Peter, now Thomas. Each has much more to fathom, for revelation is only a beginning; how you make it live and breathe in your own being is what counts. 🙏



From Stations of the Resurrection: from Easter to Pentecost.  
Code: 1841 Price: £12.95  
ISBN: 9780852315453

## Finding God on the smallholding

by Jeni Parsons

A year ago my ninety-two-year-old mum died. She lived with us and my dad on the smallholding in a wooden cabin. She loved animals and birds and took delight in holding whatever new creature had been hatched or born here. She herself was tiny and had little strength but she

had a fierceness in her love of the natural world that was inspiring.

She died in the middle of our lambing season, having rejoiced in the ones that were born. After she died there were more that she would never see but I know she would have loved them. She's buried in the chapelyard at the top of our lane, a woman of no religious allegiance, but now surrounded by the wild flowers and creatures she loved.

If God is present on the smallholding in all aspects then God has also embraced her in her fierce love of creation. 🙏

“There is no one who is insignificant in the purpose of God.

Alistair Begg (born 1952), US pastor