

SUNDAY PLUS

Insight needed

Jesus could have reacted differently to Thomas in today's Gospel. He could have reprimanded him for needing proof or told him his faith should have been stronger.

He doesn't hold back from giving correction at other times. But he doesn't here.

He patiently tells Thomas to touch his wounds. He accepts that Thomas needs proof and that his resurrection isn't the easiest thing to wrap one's head around. Jesus knows just how hard it is to believe sometimes. But he's there to help and encourage, not reprimand and expect us to be further along on our spiritual journey than we are.

He does point out that others don't need proof: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." And whenever I hear that, I pat myself on the back, thinking, "That's me! I've not seen Jesus but I believe!" That's true on one level. But I must admit it might be the opposite: I have seen Jesus and not believed. We are to see Jesus in everyone. But I struggle with this. I may be "seeing" Jesus, but I don't always act like it... so I must not "believe" it.

Krista Nelson is a mum of four, catechist and editor.



Fresco from the great cloister of Santa Maria Novella in Florence.

Lord of my life, be the Lord of my love. 🕊 Amen.

Inner sight

By Catherine Pepinster

For decades, people have been fascinated by crime dramas, but nowadays a simple police procedure is not enough: television viewers want to see episodes involving forensic scientists who scour the crime scene for fingerprints, bootprints, DNA, blood and more. This is proof, provided by science, and contemporary society encourages us to think that facts matter more than anything else.

Thomas is rather like the forensic scientists: he wants clearcut evidence. Perhaps he responds like this because he feels left out after not being present when Jesus first appeared to the disciples, or he was naturally cautious. After all, could it really be true that Jesus, who died, might be risen? It takes much more than anything that forensic science can offer to believe that Jesus conquered death: it takes a leap of faith, an openness of heart that takes us beyond all that the material world has to offer to the truth.

Writer, journalist and historian, Catherine Pepinster, a former Editor of The Tablet, is a regular contributor to Redemptorist Publications.

Christianity is not simply a matter of following commandments; it is about living a new life, being in Christ, thinking and acting like Christ; and being transformed by the love of Christ, it is allowing him to take possession of our lives and change them, to free them from the darkness of evil and sin.

Pope Francis

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope 28-30 April: Jubilee of People with Disabilities

According to the UN, over a billion people in the world, or one in seven, have some form of disability. Of these, more than 100 million are children, who are almost four times more likely to experience violence than non-disabled children.

Pope Francis commented, "We come to realise that we exist as an 'us' and not a 'them' whenever disability, whether temporary or due to natural ageing, affects ourselves or someone for whom we care. Then we begin to look at reality with new eyes and we see the need to break down even those barriers that at first seemed insignificant. Nothing, however, can detract from our certainty that no disability – temporary, acquired or permanent – can change the fact that we are all children of the one Father and enjoy the same dignity. The Lord loves us all with the same tender, fatherly and unconditional love."



Today: Acts 5:12-16 Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19 John 20:19-31	Monday: 1 Peter 5:5-14 Mark 16:15-20	Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37 John 3:7b-15	Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26 John 3:16-21	Thursday: Acts 5:27-33 John 3:31-36	Friday: Acts 5:34-42 John 6:1-15	Saturday: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 John 14:6-14	Next Sunday: Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41 Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19
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2nd Sunday of Easter Sunday 27th April 2025

The Word This Week



When the Word is proclaimed, it is real and active – the Lord is present, and what is described is, in a sense, happening now. On certain days this is made more obvious by the selection of scripture that refers to a particular time or day. Such a selection occurs this morning, when we go with Mary Magdalene to visit the tomb, only to make – with her – a momentous discovery: the tomb is empty, he is risen!

28 April Saint Peter Chanel: the first martyr of Oceania; born in France in 1803, Peter joined the Marists and travelled to the Southern Pacific. After working there with indifferent success for five years, he was clubbed to death. His martyrdom succeeded in converting all the islanders to the Catholic faith.

28 April Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort: born in 1673, he became a priest after great hardships, and later founded the Congregation of the Sisters of the Divine Wisdom and the Missionary Priests of Mary. He also wrote "The True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin". He died in 1716

29 April Saint Catherine of Siena: born at Siena (Italy) in the year 1347. She entered the Third Order of Saint Dominic while still an adolescent. She was on fire with love of God and her neighbour; she brought peace and harmony between her fellow citizens, strenuously fought for the rights and liberty of the papacy, and did much for the renewal of religious life. She died in the year 1380.

30 April Saint Pius V: A Dominican, who became Pope in 1566, and began a wide-reaching reform of the Church, begun by the Council of Trent; among his works was the first systematic renewal of the liturgy, the creation of seminaries for the training of priests and the creation of a catechism of the Catholic faith. He died in 1572.

2 May: Saint Athanasius; Foremost in the fight against Arianism, Athanasius was bishop of Alexandria; for his work against Arius, he was vilified and exiled several times. He died in 373.

3 May: Saints Philip and James; Philip was born at Bethsaida. Formerly a disciple of John the Baptist, he became a follower of Christ. James, the son of Alphaeus and cousin of the Lord, ruled the Church at Jerusalem, wrote a Letter and was martyred in the year 62.

4 May: The English Martyrs; On this day in 1535 there died at Tyburn three Carthusian monks, the first of many martyrs. Of these martyrs, forty-two have been canonised and a further 242 declared blessed, but the number of those who died on the scaffold, perished in prison, or suffered harsh persecution for their faith in the course of a century and a half cannot now be reckoned. They came from every walk of life; there are among them rich and poor, married and single, women and men. They are remembered for the example they gave of constancy in their faith, and courage in the face of persecution.

Mass Times 27th April 2025		
Sunday 27th April	Vigil - Saturday 18th April	4pm - Tom Lally
	Sunday Morning	11am - Parish
Monday 28th	Mass	9.30am— Forgotten Souls
Tuesday 29th	No Mass	
Wednesday 30th	Mass	9.30am— Mary Stokes
Thursday 1st May	No Mass	
Friday 2nd	Funeral Service	10.30am—Irene Oaks
Saturday 3rd	Vigil Mass	4pm—Parish
Sunday 5th	Mass	11am— Lillian Ellis
Saturday & Sunday	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Available 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass

Mass Offerings

Ian John Stierl

Tom Lally (LD) Forgotten Souls

(Please obtain permission from any living beneficiary of a Mass offering before sending it in.)

RAFFLE

We shall be selling raffle tickets to support Olivia Kelly who is going to be volunteering in a local school in Cambodia. Tickets will be on sale at the end of mass on 3rd/4th May and 10th/11th May with the draw taking place on 17th May after 11am mass. Prizes include a hamper from Morrisons, a foot spa, a make up box from Boots and various other prizes. Tickets cost £1 each or £3 for a strip of 5. There will also be a bake sale on 25th May to raise funds.

Vigil Mass: 4pm St Mary’s, Denton ; 5pm St Josephs, Reddish; and 6.30pm Holy Family, Dane Bank

Sunday Morning: 9am St Joseph’s, Reddish; 10am Holy Family, Dane Bank and 11am St Mary’s, Denton



The Holy See Press Office has announced that Pope Francis’ funeral Mass will take place on Saturday 26 April at 9am BST (10am local time) in St Peter’s Square.

The Eucharistic celebration will conclude with the *Ultima commendatio* and the *Valedictio*, marking the beginning of nine days of mourning and Masses for the repose of Pope Francis’ soul.

An online Book of Condolence has been created for our diocese to enable the faithful to pay their respects to the late Pope Francis via the diocese website.

Parish resources can be accessed on the Bishops Conference website

[Pope Francis - Parish Resources - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#)

Parish masses during the coming week will also be offered for Pope Francis and the the repose of his soul—and also prayers for the Election of his successor.

Recent deaths in our Parish

The death has occurred of **Irene Oaks**.
Our prayers and condolences go to her family and friends. Her Funeral Service will be at **St Mary’s on 2nd May at 10.30am**. May she rest in peace.



Please note that the date of the scripture course has been changed from Thursday 1st May to Wednesday 28th May at 6.30pm.

There will be no evening mass or exposition on Thursday 1st May.



What's coming up in your Parish

May

7th WED – 7pm Film Night – The Scarlet & The Black (PG) 2hr 20min

21st WED - 6.30pm Faith In Action Meeting

28th WED- 6.30pm Scripture course

June

4th & 5Th WED/THUR 7pm Film Night – Peter & Paul (3hrs – 1.5 each night)

12th THUR – 7pm Scripture Course

18th WED – 6.30pm Faith in Action Meeting

July

3rd THUR – 7pm Scripture Course

9th WED – 7pm Film Night – Remember the Titans (PG) 2hrs

August

7th THUR - 7pm Scripture Course

13th WED – 7pm Film Night – Seabiscuit (PG) 2hr 20min

GIFT AID - Boost your offering!

If you are on the Gift Aid scheme and you have not completed a Gift Aid donation form in the **last 12 Months**, could you please contact the Parish Office and request a form.. The Diocese are introducing a new system for this new Tax Year which enables the Parishes to claim their Gift Aid donation back from the government, on a quarterly basis, rather than annually. For this new system, we are required to upload an **up to date** Gift Aid donation form for every parishioner who has been signed up onto the Gift Aid Donation scheme, If you require a form, or you are not sure when you last completed a form, please speak to the Parish Office.

Salford Diocese Information

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Ladyewell
Join us for a prayerful pilgrimage this summer as we visit Our Lady's shrine at Ladyewell. Situated on the doorstep of our diocese, this day pilgrimage presents a wonderful opportunity to take up the Jubilee call to pilgrimage without travelling too far away from home. The pilgrimage will take place on Saturday 28th June. For more information and to register, please visit <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/ladyewell-pilgrimage-2025>

Diocesan Youth Ministry Pilgrimages
Our diocesan youth ministry team is organising two fantastic pilgrimage opportunities, led by Bishop John, for young people in Years 7, 8, and 9. The first pilgrimage will take place on Saturday 3 May with a pilgrimage to Walsingham, in conjunction with our main diocesan pilgrimage. The second is a pilgrimage to The Holy Island of Lindisfarne, taking place between 20-22 June. Find out more and register at <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/youth/ministry/prayer-and-pilgrimage>

CAFOD’s Myanmar Earthquake Appeal
CAFOD (the Catholic Agency For Overseas Development) has shared details of its Myanmar Earthquake Appeal. Funds raised for this appeal will provide much-needed water, food, solar lights, mosquito nets and water purification tablets to those devastated by this disaster. Your generosity will extend far and wide and will help the Catholic Church in Myanmar bring comfort and relief to families who are in urgent need. Visit cafod.org.uk/myanmar to find out more and donate.

Mercy in the Holy Year
The Diocese of Salford has produced a number of resources to help us learn more about the theme of mercy and reconciliation in the Jubilee Year, including an FAQ sheet on Plenary Indulgences. To find out more, please visit <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/plenary-indulgences>

