

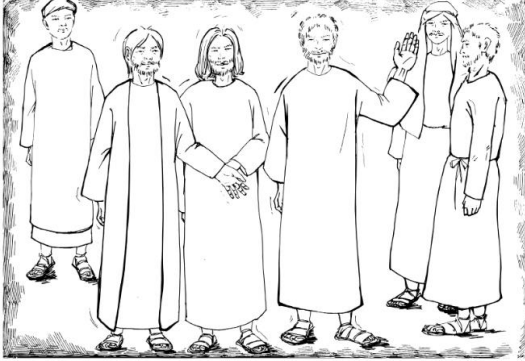


St Johns
Being the Gospel to all People

Sunday
7-Apr-2024

A very warm welcome is extended to all visitors to St Johns. Morning tea is offered after the service today, so please stay and enjoy.

Scripture reading: John 20:19-31 (New International Version)



The Groaning Disciple

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Jesus Appears to Thomas

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

The Purpose of John's Gospel

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Sunday

14-Apr-2024

Scripture reading: Luke 24:36b-48 (New International Version)

THIS WEEK

From: 7-Apr-2024

To: 14-Apr-2024

Prayer points:

- For peace and restoration of stability in Israel, Ukraine and other regions experiencing unrest;
- For Jane's health;
- For Brenda's health;
- For Felicity's recovery;
- For violence and crime to be subdued in our country.
- For those who have had major surgery and are recovering;
- For support for all those who have lost loved ones, homes and/or livelihoods in the recent natural disasters.

Sunday 7-Apr-2024

Food Bank
9.30 am Sunday Service in English (Chinese subtitle)
3:30 pm Christian Youth Church

Monday 8-Apr-2024

N/A

Tuesday 9-Apr-2024

7:30 pm Parish Council

Wednesday 10-Apr-2024

7:00 pm AA meeting

Thursday 11-Apr-2024

3:10 pm Musiqhub

Friday 12-Apr-2024

10:00am Knitting Group

Sunday 14-Apr-2024

9.30 am Sunday Service in English (Chinese subtitle)
3:30 pm Christian Youth Church

*Christ is Risen
Hallelujah*

Pastoral Reflection

Hello, friends, who love St Johns, Happy Eastertide. Welcome to our second Sunday of Eastertide. What does Easter mean to you? Beyond astonishing announcement that "Christ has risen," and the response "He is risen indeed! Hallelujah. What is the Easter message and what are you to do with it? How does Easter story touch your lives and what differences does it make? Is resurrection just a peculiar event that happened in the life of Jesus and nothing more? Or does it affect the way you see and experience reality?

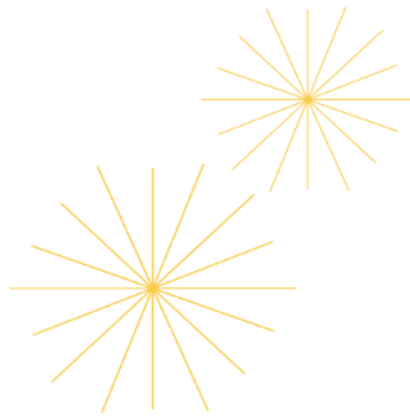
The protagonist of this week's Gospel reading is Apostle Thomas.

Thomas story is mostly cast in a negative light. He's most famously known as "Doubting Thomas," the cynic, the one who did not believe. His reluctance to accept the testimony of the other disciples, is often described as a spiritual flaw. As signs of obstinance, or of a weak faith.

But weakness is not what I see in the disciple who will later be known as the Apostle of India. Apostle Thomas afterstory isn't well known in the West. The impact that he had in India is preserved by village bards in a rich oral tradition of songs, ballads, and dances.

Thomas sailed to the east coast of Kerala in A.D 52, intending to preach to the Jewish colonies settled near Cochin. His preaching aroused some hostility, and he was killed in A.D 72. Apostle Thomas was instrumental in converting both Jewish and Brahmin (the upper crust of India's cradle of philosophy). And today one of the largest church groups in India is called Mar Thoma Church ("Lord Thomas Church").

The interesting thing about Thomas is not that he doubted, but that Jesus responded to him right where he was, freely offering Thomas the testimony of his own wounds, his own pain. I suspect that intimate experience of resurrected Jesus is what compelled him to carry the gospel to the ends of the earth – to a doubting and a question people.



School Holiday Programme

The School Holidays are almost here!

Please pray for all the children attending the Holiday Programme at St Johns Bucklands Beach.

Pray for our young leaders and everyone supporting the programme in April 2024.

May each day be filled with joy

Prayer

What is your prayer this Easter season?



On Sunday Jeff shared about the generosity of people in our church community as an example of a resurrection story.

What's your resurrection story?



Thank you for all the donations to the **Petal Foundation**
-Our collection bin is overflowing!

The Petal Foundation provides support to parents in Auckland with

Love -babies are shown wraparound love and care

Withdrawal - babies are supported through the trauma of substance withdrawal

Attachment - babies maintain connection with their detoxing mums

Nutrition - feeding plans are made to support babies development and Mum's feeding choices



Songs for Today



1. What a friend we have in Jesus
2. Turn your eyes upon Jesus
3. Shout to the Lord
4. You are my hiding place

Sunday Services:	English 9:30a.m.	
Office Hours:	Wed/Fri 9am-12pm, Thurs 11am-2pm	
Phone: 09 534 2305	Email: office@stjohnsbb.org.nz	
Website:	https://stjohnsbb.org.nz	
Minister	Rev Jeff Odhiambo	022 674 0044
Administrator	Anne Purcell	
Property Manager	Charles de Vilder	
People's Warden	Ayleen de Vilder	
Minister's Warden	Julie Dickey	
Pastoral Care	Judy McDonald	021 057 6327
Prayer Chain	Judy McDonald	
Direct Credit Offerings AC	03-0166-0135407-025	

Youth Group: Contact Jeff minister@stjohnsbb.org.nz

	Today's Helpers 7-Apr-2024	Next Week's Helpers 14-Apr-2024
Preacher/ Service Leader	Jeff Odhiambo	Jeff Odhiambo
Musician/s	Rahil John	Jeanette Li Albert Ip, Winnie Wong
Projector & Sound Desk	Collin Franke	
Reader	Felicity Vincer	Olga Ferriera
Intercessor	Jeff Odhiambo	Julie Dickey
HC set up	Alison Stanton	N/A
HC Serving team	Olga Ferriera	N/A
Prayer ministry	Anne Purcell	
Sunday School	N/A	N/A
Welcome Desk	With ushering	With ushering
Usher	Olga Ferriera	Charles de Vilder
Counters	Nessie Crawford	Alison Stanton
	Albert Ip	
Morning Tea	Jeanette Li	Betty Curd
	Hong-Yan Song	Nessie Crawford