

## Resources on the Sunday Readings – Easter 2

Picture Reflection (p1), Bible Reading & Study Questions (p2)

See separate families' sheet.

### Picture Reflection



### Testing Truth John 20: 19-31

*It would have been easy for Thomas to go along with his friends who had already seen the risen Jesus, but Thomas wanted to experience it for himself in order to believe.*

- Thomas has got 'bad press' in the gospel reading today...what would you say to Thomas?
- What evidence do you have for your faith?
- We have to seek, search and question as our faith grows without the presence of Jesus in the room with us in person....if Jesus was here with you today, what would you say to him?
- Spend a few minutes with this picture from a newspaper...
- How do you feel about what you read in newspapers?
- Reflect on examples of fake news in the press over the past few months...
- How does truth depend on your perspective or context? How can we test competing claims?

## Bible Study Questions.

Bible Reading – **John 20:19-end** Jesus appears to the Disciples - Good News Bible

<sup>19</sup> It was late that Sunday evening, and the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Then Jesus came and stood among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. <sup>20</sup> After saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup> Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

<sup>24</sup> One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (called the Twin), was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” Thomas said to them, “Unless I see the scars of the nails in his hands and put my finger on those scars and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

<sup>26</sup> A week later the disciples were together again indoors, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and look at my hands; then reach out your hand and put it in my side. Stop your doubting, and believe!” <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, “Do you believe because you see me? How happy are those who believe without seeing me!”

<sup>30</sup> In his disciples' presence Jesus performed many other miracles which are not written down in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these have been written in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through your faith in him you may have life.

1. Consider what it was like for the disciples who were frightened and hiding away from the authorities. For some Christians, even today, there is a fear of openly declaring their beliefs. How does this make you feel living in a country which supports religious tolerance?
2. Jesus breathed on the disciples and they received the Holy Spirit. What does this tell you about the power of the Spirit and the forms that it takes?
3. Almost out of the blue, Jesus talks about forgiveness. Why do you think this statement is included here?
4. Thomas doubted? Do you think doubting is wrong? When could the ability to doubt be a positive thing?
5. Do you believe in Jesus because of the miracles he performed or is there something else that makes you believe in him?