

Saint Vincent de Paul Parish
36 Altenburg Gardens, Battersea, London SW11 1JJ
One of the South Battersea Churches

Newsletter

Contact us:

Parish Priest: Monsignor Timothy Galligan: 020 7228 2121; Email: batterseaag@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Ms Alison Boys 020 7228 2121; batterseaag@rcaos.org.uk Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 9.15am – 12.15

Parish Safeguarding Representatives: Ed Elliot & Deborah Sherwood: batterseaagsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

Further information:

Our Parish Website: www.saintvincentdepaul-church.org or Scan the QR Code on the right

The Archdiocese of Southwark Website: www.rcaos.org.uk

Our Diocesan Directory: www.rcaos.org.uk/directory.

The Catholic Church in England and Wales: www.cbcew.org.uk



Year B

Second Week of Easter

7 - 14 April 2024

Holy Masses and Intentions for the coming week

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Second Sunday of Easter | 9am | Holy Souls | |
| Sunday 7 April | 11am | All Parishioners | |
| | | <i>No Evening Mass</i> | |
| Monday 8th | 10am | Holy Souls | <i>The Annunciation of The Lord (transferred)</i> |
| Tuesday 9 th | No Mass | | |
| Wednesday 10th | 9.30am | | |
| Thursday 11th | 9.30am | | |
| Friday 12th | 9.30am | | |
| Saturday 13 th | 11am | <i>Confessions</i> | |
| Third Sunday of Easter | 9am | Ann Sherwood RIP | |
| Sunday 14 April | 11am | All Parishioners | |
| | 6pm | Deceased Members of Pope Family | |

'Easter Offering': Thank you to all who gave generously in the Easter Offering, I do appreciate it very much. If you were not yet able to do so, please take an envelope from the back of Church or use the option available on our Card Reader. Thank you, Fr Tim.

Are You Looking for More in Your Catholic Life?

The 'Life in the Spirit Seminars' have been an effective programme used in the Catholic Church for over 50 years to bring people to a deeper relationship with God and an understanding of the charisms of the Holy Spirit. This year two opportunities are offered which you might wish to consider Joining:

- the series of seminars will be run at Saint George's Cathedral (8pm to 9.30 pm on Tuesdays, starting 23rd April until May 28th – with a retreat day on Saturday 18th May);
- in addition, St Vincent's parishioner, Stuart Edwards, is also offering to run a small group in his home following the same talks. This group will meet at 7.30pm on Wednesday evenings starting 24th April.

Those who wish to attend the Cathedral sessions, please register at bit.ly/LISS2024. Those interested in meeting at Stuart's home, please contact Stuart personally for details at ste7474@icloud.com

Thomas's faith on the Eighth Day, and our faith today

At Mass on the Second Sunday of Easter, we always hear the passage from chapter 20 (verses 19-31) of the Gospel of John, recounting Jesus' appearance to his disciples gathered on the evening of the first Easter Sunday, and again a week later. They were behind closed doors 'for fear of the Jews' when Jesus came among

them and showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. His first words were 'Peace be with you'. Then he gave them their mission, sending them out just as God the Father sent him.

Then, a week later (so, on this Second Sunday of Easter), he appeared to them all again when this time Thomas was also there with them. The story is very well known: Thomas's initial incredulity at Easter, after he listened to what the others had told him; Jesus' invitation to Thomas at that second appearance to examine his wounds; and how Thomas ended up making the greatest act of faith of all: '*My Lord and my God*'. He had found the peace that believing Jesus is risen bestows. He has unjustly been nicknamed 'doubting' Thomas. But, in his questioning and uncertainty, he is really rather similar to many of us. Even though eventually he was privileged to see and touch Jesus' wounds, he still had to *believe that it was Jesus* he was meeting, and that he was risen (other Easter stories show some thought they might be encountering some sort of ghost). In Duccio's painting (below), does the look on Thomas's face show his doubts? Or is he hesitant now that Jesus is actually commanding him to touch him, as Thomas had said he would have to do? The others look a bit shocked, but were also eagerly awaiting Thomas's act of faith.



Duccio di Buonisegna, 1308-1311 panel from 'the Maestà' in the Museo dell'Opera del Duomo, Siena.

All the New Testament witnesses relate this important detail about Jesus' wounds. As Pope Francis said in an Easter message *Urbi et orbi*: '*the risen Jesus bears the marks of the wounds in his hands, feet and side. These wounds are the everlasting seal of his love for us. All those who experience a painful trial in body or spirit can find refuge in*

these wounds and, through them, receive the grace of the hope that does not disappoint.'

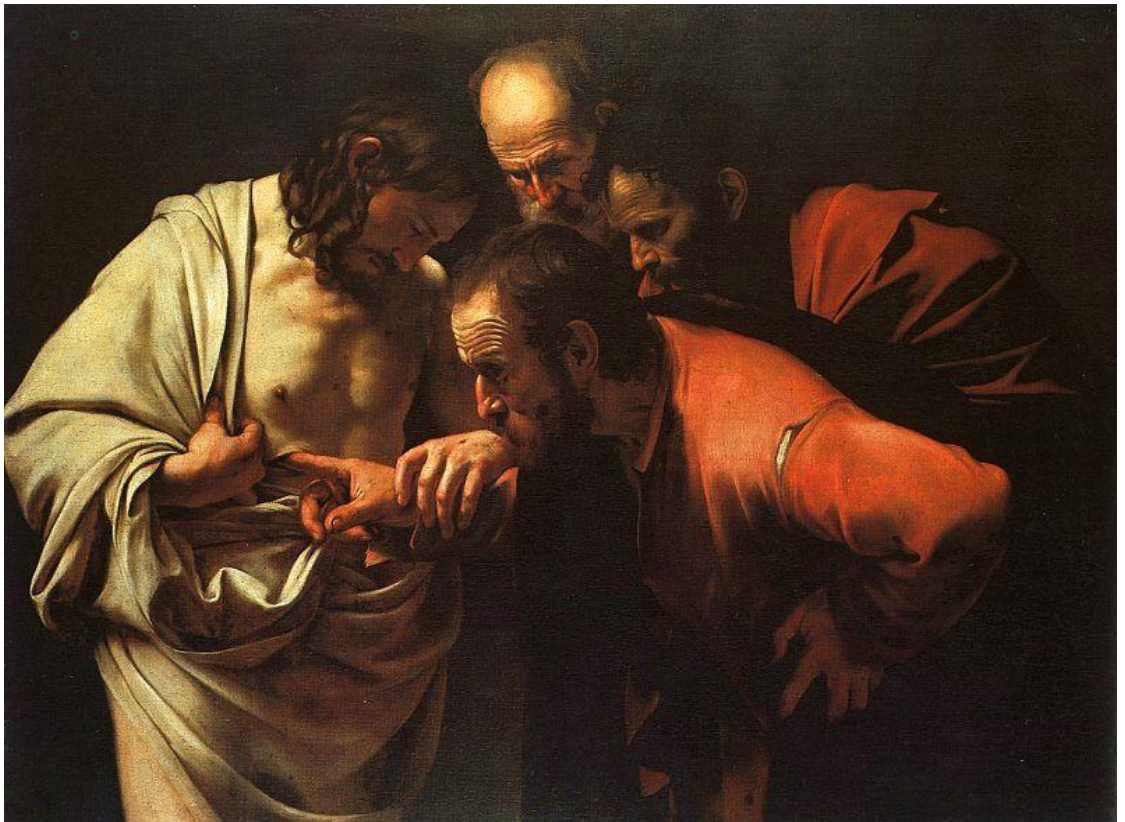
Afterwards, Jesus spoke wonderful words, directed towards you and me: '*Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed*'. Remember, not all who met Jesus, even before his death, were prepared to put their faith in him. It is natural enough to want to see to be convinced (people sometimes say 'seeing is believing'). But only belief can give the true interpretation of what was seen. Belief is an act of humble, loving trust; and rarely just the result of arguments and 'proofs'. Faith can bring the deep peace of the saints, which provides the solid foundation for all sorts of challenges and trials.

So overwhelmed was Thomas at really meeting his risen Lord that he uttered those most profound words of faith, which many have used for a simple, profound prayer: '*My Lord and my God*'. He called Jesus his 'Lord' (i.e. his master and Saviour) and his 'God' (i.e. the equal of the God they worshipped, whom Jesus had taught them to call 'Father'). As Paul was to tell the Romans: '*If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved*' (Rom 10.9). Thomas came to believe from the heart.

We should praise God for what is given to us through the retelling of that powerful and dramatic moment. Being unable to see and touch the Lord as those first apostles did does not at all disadvantage us. Jesus himself said explicitly so on that occasion: *'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'* We have received the testimony of faith from our forebears, along with their witness of lives full of faith and love.

Here is the scene again, being powerfully portrayed by **Caravaggio** in this strikingly realistic painting of 1603, now in Potsdam, near Berlin.

We see Jesus in his real flesh and blood.



The other passages from scripture this Sunday reinforce this truth. The 'Acts of the Apostles' tells how they gave powerful witness to the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus; and it describes that early Church community as *'united, heart and soul'*. The witness of so many others, united in living out the same faith across succeeding centuries, is what has led you and me to our faith in Jesus today.

Our faith is never about 'mere words'. Saint John, in Sunday's Second Reading, also points to the *love* that bound the early Christian community together heart and soul. It is love that necessarily pours out from true faith, for it is never just words but also deeds (*'whoever loves the father that begot him, loves the child that he begets'*. 1 John 5, 1).

The concern and love that you yourself experience from other members of the community of the Church, the outreach in prayer and charity we show towards others in our parish, especially those in need, are all signs of a faith that is alive, a *faith that gives life*. Such a faith communicates itself. It touches hearts. It helps others to faith. Saint John, at the end of Sunday's Gospel passage, tells us he had written all about the life of Jesus so that *'you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name'* (John 20, 31, my emphasis). And, as he started writing his First Letter, Saint John had also stated what the Apostles did (and what we too are invited to do, as disciples): *'we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ'* (1 John 1, 1).

Diocesan Youth Events

Young Adult Events

St George's Cathedral hosts a monthly Young Adult Mass at 6:00 pm on the first Sunday of every month, followed by a social gathering (for those aged 18+). There are also weekly events and socials on Thursday evenings. Details can be found on the [RCAOS website](#), Facebook, and Instagram @stgeorgesya.

Flame 2025 Flame is the largest Catholic youth event in the UK, featuring guest speakers, award-winning musicians, praise and worship, Eucharistic Adoration, and much more! The event is open to those from school year 9 to university age. The Archdiocese has purchased a block booking – book at www.tinyurl.com/flame25

Intentions for our Easter Prayer

Pray for Peace. Please pray fervently for a real and lasting ceasefire in the Holy Land, and a lasting peace with justice for all who live there – for an end to the the killing, wounding, and trauma of innocents, and the terrible and unnecessary destruction of people’s homes and livelihoods in Gaza.

Pray also for peace with justice for Ukraine, and an end to Russia's violent and unjust war: for all who have died, been injured, or are bereaved; for Ukrainian refugees here and across Europe.

Pray for Peace in the many troubled places across our world including: Afghanistan, Armenia and Azerbaijan, Cameroun, Chad, China, Colombia, Ethiopia, Haiti, Hong Kong, Mali, Myanmar, Nigeria, Russia, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Yemen.... and so many other places where the innocent are caught up in the violent power struggles of others.

And for Christians who face persecution in so many parts of the world today, notably in India, Pakistan and Nigeria, and countries in the Far East.

Pray for the Pope's Intention for April, for women:

Let us pray for the role of women. We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognised in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world. Pray along with Pope Francis himself: just click on [the Pope Video](#).

And for the sick and housebound: for Rosemary Awere, Mario and Mariana Cassar, Rose Egan, George Giannoukakis, Henry Holtz, Lorna Jayamanne, Joy Joseph, Betty Kilkelly (in hospital), Becky Kumoji, Pamela Meade, Giuseppe and Giuseppina Morreale, Lorna Phaure, Bernard and Iris Ramsey, Gus Twycross-Hills, Lynn Williams, and all other sick or housebound parishioners; and for parishioners’ elderly parents and sick relatives.

Please Support your Parish Financially

Thank you for your donations in the Easter Offering; and £389 to the Holy Places

- **A GIFT-AIDED BANK STANDING ORDER is the most effective way to donate regularly.** Please ask us for details.
- **Always GIFT AID YOUR OFFERING please. Gift Aiding by UK taxpayers makes an indispensable contribution** for it adds 25% to your donations from tax you pay already.
- You can **GIFT AID ANY DONATION**, including Offerings for Masses, as long as you indicate your wish to do so: by using a special Gift Aid envelope and include your contact details (find them in the containers on the Church wall); and you can register your card donations for Gift Aid when using the Card Readers.
- To **GIVE DIRECTLY FROM YOUR BANK ACCOUNT** (please use your surname as the reference, particularly to ensure Gift Aid), the **BACS details** you require are:

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Sort Code: | 50-21-01 Nat West, Clapham Junction Branch |
| Account Number: | 82117209 |
| Account Name: | RCAS Battersea Altenburg Gardens |
- **Use CONTACTLESS CARD READERS** as you enter or leave Mass, but PLEASE also **Gift Aid** it. Register your card the first time; if using the same card in the future, you usually only need to have done so once.
- You can **DONATE DIRECTLY using the Parish [JustGiving page](#)** (also on our website); **please Gift Aid any donation.**
- We have a **‘DONATE BUTTON’ on our website** allowing you to donate directly.
- If you **SHOP ONLINE** and start out from our [Easyfundraising Page](#) you can raise donations for the parish from some 4700 online retailers *at no additional cost to you.*

*May God bless you and all your loved ones during Eastertime,
Fr Tim*