

Sunday 24th April 2022

2nd Sunday of Easter

Welcome to everyone in church today.

Welcome, too, to those joining our livestreams via Facebook.

Please take note of our on-going Covid-safety measures:

* **Face-coverings are recommended, but optional**

* **Sitting away from others is still suggested**

* **Holy Communion is administered, standing, in one kind only**

* **Please join us for refreshments, after church, in the Hall**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

St Thomas 25

St James 103

The Collect

Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father.

First Reading Acts 5.27-32

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, 'We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us.' But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, so that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.'

GRADUAL HYMN

St Thomas 272

St James 112

Gospel Reading John 20.19-end

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus

came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²f you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.'

But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

OFFERTORY HYMN

St Thomas **351**

St James **114**

COMMUNION HYMNS

St Thomas **279, 69**

St James **342, 305**

Prayer after Communion

Lord God our Father,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ
you have assured your children of eternal life
and in baptism have made us one with him:
deliver us from the death of sin
and raise us to new life in your love,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

FINAL HYMN

St Thomas **532**

St James **486**

The Week Ahead & Information

Today	12.15	Holy Baptism of Cara <i>at St James'</i>
Monday-Saturday	9am	Morning Prayer <i>on St Thomas' Facebook page</i>
Monday	8.45 -10.30	Tea, Toast & Tots drop-in <i>at St James'</i>
Tuesday	9.30-11 10am 12pm	Thomas' Tots <i>in the Church Hall</i> Eucharist <i>at St James'</i> Eat & Meet Lunch <i>at St James'</i>
Wednesday	11am	Holy Communion <i>at Raven Croft</i>
Thursday	10am 2.30	Eucharist <i>at St Thomas'</i> Thursday Friends & Food <i>at St Thomas' Hall</i>
Friday	11-1	St James' Café open <i>during Spring Fair preparations</i>
Saturday	10.30-2 3.30	St James' Spring Fair Interment of ashes for Tom Watson RIP, preceded by a short service in church <i>at St Thomas'</i>
Next Sunday – 1st May – 3rd Sunday of Easter	9.15 10.45 12.30	Eucharist <i>at St Thomas'</i> Eucharist <i>at St James'</i> Holy Baptism of Lola <i>at St James'</i>

Thank you to everyone who made our Easter celebrations so special. Especially to cleaners, musicians, flower arrangers, refreshment providers, bonnet wearers, noise-makers, welcomers and everyone else!

St James' Spring Fair

Saturday 30th April, 10.30-2. There will be a range of stalls (including toys, games, homemade, craft, bric-a-brac, tombola, raffle, jewellery...) Items for stalls – including prizes and tombola items - appreciated in the boxes at the back of church.

Help still needed! Please speak to Fr David or Kaye Ridings.

APCMs

The Annual Meetings this year, as previously, follow on from the Parish Eucharist. St Thomas' is on Sunday 8th May and St James' is on Sunday 15th May. Everyone of the Electoral Roll is invited to attend. Everyone is encouraged to come to church and to stay on to celebrate all that our churches have been doing in the last year.

Volunteers

Our outreach, mission, ministry and evangelism is part of our Christian duty. We rely on members of the Church volunteering to help do God's work in our parishes. Please have a look at the sign up sheets in church and work out how you can help.

St Thomas' Electoral Roll

This is now available to view at the back of church. Please check your details carefully. Any corrections should be written on to a form and given to Maggi Harris. If you're not yet on the Roll, please complete a form and hand it to Maggi or one of the clergy TODAY!

Churchwarden & PCC Vacancies

Churchwardens are elected every year. Both churches also have vacancies on their PCC. Information on these roles, as well as nomination forms, will be available at the back of church. If you are eligible to stand, *please*, consider it.

Collection for Ukraine

Thank you very much for everyone who has been able to donate to our collection for Ukraine. As well as online donations, a further £257 was collected at St Thomas' (St James' total to follow!).

Jubilee Celebrations

We're all invited to come together at St James' on Saturday 4th June, from 6pm (concert at 6.30), for a magnificent concert and jubilee party! Guests include the Rossendale Male Voice Choir, Chameleon Quartet and vocal artist Courtney. Tickets are FREE but you must book in advance. See Marjorie Charnley (St J) or Fr Andrew (St T) or our online platforms. Food and licensed bar!

Bacon butties after church

The next dates for bacon butties after church will be 15th May (St Thomas') and 22nd May (St James').

Prayers

Please let Fr David know of anyone who should be included on our weekly prayer list. (frdavidstephenson@gmail.com, 07539 264279)

Names of those on the parish prayer lists will also be pinned to the prayer boards in each church.

For your prayers

For the sick: Ian, Charley, Mandy, Lizzie, Janet, Asia, Derek, Rachael, Mike, Lily, Christian, Baby Theo, John, Jean, Mother Enid, Margaret, Denzil, Christine

For all who have died in the past week and all whose anniversaries fall in the coming week. *Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.*