

# Sunday 15th May 2022

## 5th 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 422**

**St James 436**

**Collect**

Risen Christ,

your wounds declare your love for the world

and the wonder of your risen life:

give us compassion and courage

to risk ourselves for those we serve,

to the glory of God the Father.

**First Reading Acts 11.1-18**

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, ‘Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?’ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ‘I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, “Get up, Peter; kill and eat.” But I replied, “By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.” But a second time the voice answered from heaven, “What God has made clean, you must not call profane.” This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and

saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved." And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God? When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.'

## GRADUAL HYMN

*St Thomas*     56

*St James*     339

## Gospel Reading *John 13.31-35*

When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

## OFFERTORY HYMN

Great God, your love has called us here,  
as we, by love, for love were made.

Your living likeness still we bear,  
though marred, dishonoured, disobeyed.  
We come, with all our heart and mind,  
your call to hear, your love to find.

2. We come with self-inflicted pains  
of broken trust and chosen wrong;  
half-free, half-bound by inner chains;  
by social forces swept along,  
by powers and systems close confined;  
yet seeking hope for humankind.

3. Great God, in Christ you call our  
name and then receive us as your own  
not through some merit, right, or claim,  
but by your gracious love alone.

We strain to glimpse your mercy seat  
and find you kneeling at our feet.

4. Then take the towel, and break the  
bread, and humble us, and call us friends.  
Suffer and serve till all are fed,  
and show how grandly love intends  
to work till all creation sings,  
to fill all worlds, to crown all things.

5. Great God, in Christ you set us free,  
your life to live, your joy to share.  
Give us your Spirit's liberty  
to turn from guilt and dull despair  
and offer all that faith can do  
while love is making all things new.

## COMMUNION HYMNS

*St Thomas* 322  
*St James* 137, 288

### Prayer After Communion

Eternal God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:  
grant us to walk in his way,  
to rejoice in his truth,  
and to share his risen life;  
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

### FINAL HYMN

*St Thomas* 9 (verses 1,2,3,7)  
*St James* 263 (omit \* verses)

## The Week Ahead & Information

**Today** St James' APCM follows on directly from the Parish Eucharist in church

11.15 Holy Baptism of Finley *at St Thomas'*  
3.30 Evening Prayer (BCP) *at St Thomas'*

### Monday-Saturday

9am Morning Prayer *on St Thomas' Facebook page*

**Monday** 8.45 Tea, Toast & Tots drop-in *at St James'*  
-10.30

6-8pm Rainbows & Brownies *in St James' Hall*

**Tuesday** 9.30-11 Thomas' Tots *in the Church Hall*

10am Eucharist *at St James'*

**Wednesday** 7pm Choir Practise *at St James'*

**Thursday** 10am Eucharist *at St Thomas'*

11-1 Refectory Café open *at St Thomas'*

### Next Sunday – 22<sup>nd</sup> May – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

8am Eucharist *at St Thomas'*

9.15 Eucharist *at St Thomas'*

10.45 Eucharist *at St James'* followed by bacon butties

11.15 Baptism of Verity & Jaxx *at St Thomas'*

### Christian Aid at St Thomas'

Thank you to everyone who helped make our pop-up café and cake sale a success yesterday. Next is ... Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May 10.30am Sunday Brunch (Big

Brekkie) at Clough House after church, £7.50 per person, see Lowri to book or sign up in church. A few places only remain so sign up TODAY!

## **Volunteers**

Please remember to have a look at our sign up sheets at the back of both churches. This is where you can offer your time, interests and talents to support the work of the Church across our parishes. If you have any ideas or suggestions about what else we might be able to do, please chat with one of the clergy.

## **Jubilee Celebrations**

St James', Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Wardens (St T) or our online platforms. Food and licensed bar!

**Save the date** for the Helmshore Community Jubilee Picnic, Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June! More information next week.

**Rejoice** at Whalley Abbey with the Archbishop of York on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm. Doors open at 6pm for the open-air Eucharist at 7.30pm. A chance for the whole diocese to gather and celebrate together with the Cathedral Youth Choir, St Thomas', Lancaster, worship band, brass band and Blackburn Asian Christian Choir. Wear something red/orange/white and bring a rug or folding chair. [www.whalleyabbey.org](http://www.whalleyabbey.org)

## **Prayers**

Please let Fr David know of anyone who should be included on our weekly prayer list. ([frdavidstephenson@gmail.com](mailto: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, Christian, John, Jean, Olivia, Stephen, Mother Enid, Margaret, Christine, Lola  
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.*

**Lily Dust RIP** The funeral service for Lily will take place at St Thomas' on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May at 11.15am, followed by committal at Accrington Crematorium and then a reception in the Church Hall. The funeral will be in the context of a Eucharist.