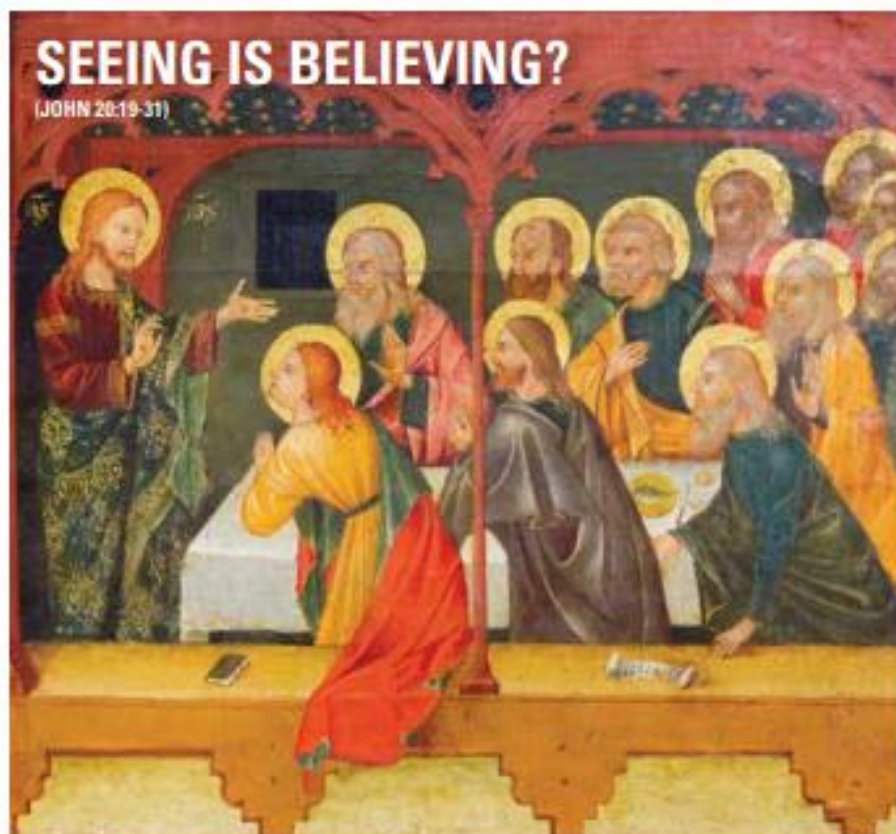


THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: White • Psalter Week 2

SEEING IS BELIEVING?

(JOHN 20:19-31)



Painting in Castello Visconteo, Pavia, Italy, depicting the Risen Jesus with his apostles

Our gospel reading forms the end of the work of the Fourth Evangelist. Despite the message from Mary Magdalene, the disciples are in hiding out of fear for their lives. It will take an experience of the risen Jesus among them to convince them that he is truly risen.

During Jesus' ministry, the disciples have no active part to play: they are given no share in Jesus' ministry, unlike in the other gospel versions. It is now that Jesus commissions them and they become 'apostles', that is, ones who are sent. Now that Jesus is no longer among them as before, it is up to them to continue his mission. Jesus breathes on them the Holy Spirit to empower them in their ministry: those who accept their message will express this publicly by being baptised and having their sins forgiven as a consequence of their decision to live this new life. Those who decide not to become disciples will remain in their present spiritual condition.

Thomas represents the sceptical person who wants to see for himself that what the others tell him is true. The risen Jesus appears among the disciples again and wishes them "Peace". Thomas does not actually touch Jesus physically, but makes the supreme confession of faith in Jesus which we find in the Gospel of John, when he declares "My Lord and my God!" This leads to the last recorded words of Jesus, "Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe." These words are addressed to us who hear them today. ■

SAY

Jesus, you are my Lord and my God!

(see John 20:28)

DO

Renew your baptismal promises and reflect on how you can best live them out.

REFLECT

Many of us will have a sneaking sympathy for Thomas, who is reluctant to take his fellow disciples' glad tidings as true, simply on their word alone. But his wish is granted, and the risen Jesus does not rebuke him for wanting to know more, to find out for himself. The characters in the gospel narrative may well be historical, but they are also representative; we are invited to consider them in their human reality and to identify with those who are nearest to ourselves. Some of us may feel close to Thomas and his desire for certainty. Jesus tells him to not be *unbelieving* but *believing*.

We note that it is Thomas' enquiring mind which leads him to this personal encounter with Jesus. We might keep this in mind as we welcome our new members into the community this Easter after their searching for faith, and remember that our own understanding often develops best through questions about what the doctrines of the church really mean. Explanations given to children are seldom sufficient for adults.

The noun 'faith' is not found in the Fourth Gospel, but the verb 'to believe' occurs over 100 times: it is a key term in John's thought. Thus, belief in Jesus is not something which we possess, but something which we do. It is an act of believing and trusting in the person of Jesus, essentially a relationship of love, the true mark of the disciple. ■

LEARN

The forgiveness of sins mentioned in today's gospel refers to the result of the person being baptised.

Sacramental confession belongs to a later period in church history and development.

The climax of the Fourth Gospel is the Johannine Beatitude, "Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe."

For John the Evangelist, faith means actively putting our belief and trust in the person of Jesus.

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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2nd Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy – 24th April 2022

Weekday masses

Mon 9:00am Leitrim 7:30pm Dechomet
Tues 9:00am Dromara
Wed 7:30pm Leitrim
Fri 7:30pm Dromara

Weekend masses

Sat 6:00pm Dechomet
7:30pm Leitrim
Sun 9:00am Gargory
11:00am Dromara

Currently I have Covid and do not know when my isolation will finish.

The weekend masses will be covered by visiting priests. If I am still in isolation the weekday masses will be streamed until I get two clear tests. I will keep you updated at the masses I stream.

Anniversaries masses arranged for Wed 27th will be said and can be said again the following week when family can attend. Sorry for the inconvenience. Thankfully my symptoms are mild.

Anniversary Masses

Leitrim

Sat 23rd 11am Nolene Hardy (MM)

Sat 23rd 7:30pm Clare McCrickard
Patsy McAnulty
Margaret Morgan

Wed 27th Jim Joe O'Hare
Mary Ward and Deceased
Family Members
Eileen McCartan

Sat 30th Maura Murphy (MM)
John Murphy

Dechomet

Sat 23rd Charlie Rooney and Deceased
Family Members

Sat 30th Paddy and Phil Turley

Cemetery Sunday 22nd May

NI Blood Transfusion Service

Blood donation session in the Baptist Church Hall, Ballynahinch on Tue 3rd May 12:30pm – 4:pm and 5:00pm – 7:30pm. Now by appointment only, please phone 08085 534 653 to book.

Collections

Parish

Dromara

£651

Drumgooland

£1956

Thank you to all those who made our Easter ceremonies so special. Whilst some things have not fully returned, it was a gift to have singing, stations of the cross and the acknowledgement that we have been able to stay open for over a year.

Trócaire Please return your donations to Trócaire at any of the masses or leave it through the letterbox of the parochial house. This year Trócaire has received matched funding from the UK government, so your donation will be doubled. Any cheques should be made to the *Parish of Dromara* or to the *Parish of Drumgooland*. If anyone wishes to donate directly to Trócaire please visit www.trocaire.org or ring 0800 9121200. If you are a taxpayer, please complete the gift aid form and return it with your donation.

First Communion

Sat 7th May 11am St Mary's Dechomet

Sat 14th May 11am St Michael's Finnis

Sat 21st May 11am St Matthew's Magheramayo

Housekeeper Wanted The role will include house cleaning, laundry and lunch twice a week (6 - 8 hours). The job will be registered with HMRC. If anyone is interested, please let me know.

Dromore Diocesan Historical Society

The Society will host an online lecture by Martin Goss, on Mon 2nd May at 7:30pm, entitled "*St Colman's College in the 1901 & 1911 National Census*", looking at the building and residents of the College in that period. Martin Goss is a former History teacher in St Colman's and Secretary of the Dromore Diocesan Historical Society. Access to the event will be available from 7:20pm with a start at 7:30pm sharp. A link to the talk can be obtained by e-mailing the Hon Secretary goss.jjm@gmail.com and will be forwarded on Mon 2nd May.