

The Rectory
30th June 2020

Dear Family,

On Sunday 28th and Monday 29th different places remembered Saints Peter and Paul our Patron Saints; two such different men with such varied backgrounds, gifts and ministries. They are a reminder to us all that God loves everyone wherever they come from and whatever their cultural heritage.

Then, for those who follow the Common Worship lectionary Friday the 3rd July was the day to honour St Thomas the apostle. He was a Jew and one of Jesus' closest disciples. Thomas was a devoted but impetuous follower of Christ. When Jesus said He was returning to Judea to visit His sick friend Lazarus, Thomas immediately exhorted the other apostles to accompany Him on the trip which involved certain danger and possible death. At the Last Supper, when Christ told His disciples that He was going to prepare a place for them to which they also might come after their deaths Thomas pleaded that they did not understand and consequently he received the beautiful assurance from Jesus "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life" and that through Jesus anyone could come to the Father, (become a child of God). Perhaps Thomas is best known for his role in verifying the Resurrection of Jesus. He was unwilling to believe that the other Apostles had seen their risen Lord on the first Easter Sunday until a week later he saw Jesus for Himself. He saw in Christ's hands the marks of the nails and the spear wound in Jesus' side and exclaimed, "My Lord and My God," thus making a public Profession of Faith in the Divinity of Jesus. Thomas is a reminder to us all that we do not have to take the word of others, but that Jesus will make Himself known to all who really want to know that He is truly God and alive today.

Stay safe and God bless!

Andrew+

The Collect for St Thomas

Almighty and eternal God,
who, for the firmer foundation of our faith,
allowed your holy apostle Thomas to doubt the resurrection of your Son
till word and sight convinced him:
grant to us, who have not seen, that we also may believe
and so confess Christ as our Lord and our God;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen