

Jesus appears to his disciples

Week of 7th April 2024



- How do you think you might react if suddenly, whilst sitting quietly on your own, Jesus came and stood in front of you?
- Read John 20:19-end.
- Where were the disciples when Jesus appeared to them?
- What did they already know about Jesus' resurrection from other sources?
- Why do you think they were still fearful and disbelieving?
- How does this passage treat the relationship between doubt and faith?
- What does Jesus do and say to provide reassurance and hope?
- Jesus returns a second time, when Thomas is present. Is it reasonable that Thomas wants evidence in order to believe?
- What is faith in Jesus based on now, rather than 'seeing' personally?
- In v26, this is the third time that Jesus says 'Peace to you' to his disciples. What do you think is the significance of these words?
- In what ways do you personally sense you have been sent into the world to continue the mission of Jesus?
- Close in prayer - for those who need signs in order to take a step of faith. And, for those who need to know the peace of God in their lives at this moment.

'When we are frightened, don't we, too, hide behind the locked doors of our hearts, unable to reach out towards others?'

Yet Jesus comes to each of us through those locked doors and says: 'Peace to you!'

At a level that is deeper than all that is wounded and fearful in us, Jesus reveals that he loves us and forgives us for all our inconsistencies.

We are unique and precious to him.

We are beloved children of God.

Jesus will always be with us in all the pain and joy we will live in the journey of life.'

*'Drawn into the Mystery of Jesus Through the Gospel of John'
Jean Vanier. DLT 2004.*