



St Francis' Catholic Primary School
Maryland Park
Stratford
London E15 1HB

Tel: 020 8534 0476
Fax: 020 8555 3068
Email: info@st-francis.newham.sch.uk

29th April 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

John 20:19-31

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Jesus Appears to Thomas

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus^[a]), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

The Purpose of John's Gospel

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe^[b] that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

For some reason (we are not told why), Thomas was absent and missed out on this first Sunday evening encounter with the risen Jesus. Although he has gotten a bad rap as "doubting Thomas," he asks for nothing more than the others have already received: to see Jesus, wounds and all. The wonder of this story is that Jesus shows up again one week later to provide exactly what Thomas needs.

Jesus' response to Thomas (20:29) is not a rebuke, but rather a blessing for all those who will come to believe without having had the benefit of a flesh-and-blood encounter with Jesus.

As he came back a week later for Thomas, Jesus keeps coming back week after week among his



Newham London



Headteacher: Ms Natasha Scott

gathered disciples -- in the word, the water, the bread, and the wine -- not wanting any to miss out on the life and peace and giving us what we need. He keeps sending us out of our safe, locked rooms, into a world that, like us, so desperately needs his gifts of life and peace.

Bank Holiday

The school will be closed for the bank holiday on Monday, 6th May; we will re-open as normal on Tuesday, 7th May.

Class Assembly

There will be a class assembly for **1K Friday, 3rd May 2019** at 9:05 am; parents with children in this class are warmly welcome.

There will be a class assembly for **1A Friday, 17th May 2019** at 9:05 am; parents with children in this class are warmly welcome.

Religious Education Survey

The senior leadership at St Francis' has created a survey to gather parents' opinions on the teaching of Religious Education (RE). We are asking that you take a few minutes to complete this quick survey to support our continued improvement <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RZYQJYX>

Lenten Appeal

Thanks to your generosity and support for the Lenten Appeal we raised a total of **£1674.33** to benefit our two school charities, Ihogbe College and Royal Initiative Against Poverty and Starvation (RIAPS).

Relationship and Sex Education

It has come to our attention that many parents are concerned about recent reports on social media and the news around what schools are teaching within relationship and sex education. As a school we want to reassure you that nothing has changed in terms of what we are teaching children appropriately about sex and relationships education, and nothing will change at this point.

As you know there are plans from government to change the law around what schools must teach around sex and relationships education from September 2020 in schools. When the plans become law we will be in contact, as we will want to consult with all parents around changes that might need to be made to our present provision.

If you have concerns that you want to raise with us as a school then please speak to myself or one of the Assistant Headteachers.

N. Scott
Head Teacher

