

Reflection— *Jesus outlines the costs and rewards of discipleship.*



Today's Gospel is the conclusion of the instructions and consolations that we have heard Jesus offering to his disciples during the past few weeks. In this passage, Jesus summarizes both the costs of discipleship and its rewards.

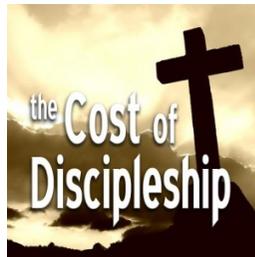
Once again our understanding of the Gospel is strengthened by considering the context in which it was written and the perspective of Matthew's audience.

The conditions of discipleship outlined in Matthew's Gospel may appear harsh. Yet they underline for us a truth—choosing anything with one's whole heart has consequences. Choosing life with Christ means that every relationship we have must be understood from a new perspective. For many in Matthew's community, this choice brought division to their family.



Matthew also outlines the reward of hospitality offered to Jesus' followers. In today's Gospel, Jesus explains the difficulties of discipleship, yet reveals that those who welcome the disciples have also welcomed him.

Today's Gospel also highlights for us the importance of hospitality in the Christian life. To welcome another in Jesus' name is to extend hospitality to Jesus himself. We have many opportunities in our daily life to reach out to others, to be a welcoming presence and a sign of God's love.



ST. BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
 Owen Street, Atherstone
 Warwickshire, CV9 1DG
 Parish Priest: Fr. Paul R. Lomas
 E mail: Stbenedict.atherstone@rcaob.org.uk
 Tel No: 01827 736286
www.saintbenedictscatherstone.com



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**The Solemnity of
 St. Peter & St. Paul**
Saturday 27th June 2020
Vigil Mass 4 pm
and Sunday 28th June
Mass at 9.30am



Saturday	27th	The Solemnity	Vigil Mass 4 pm	Parishioners
Sunday	28th	of Peter & Paul	Mass 9.30 am	Barry Bridgen RIP
Monday	29th		NO MASS	
Tuesday	30th	Feria	Mass 10 am	Children still at home
Wednesday	1st July	Feria,	Mass 10 am	All who are isolated
Thursday	2nd	Feria	Mass 10am	The Frontline workers
Friday	3rd	St. Thomas, Ap.	Mass 10 am	Those doubting their faith
Saturday	4th	THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Vigil Mass 4 pm	Parishioners

Next Week : THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
Saturday 4th July 2020 Vigil Mass 4 pm
and Sunday 5th July Mass at 9.30am

Covid 19 – The Pandemic and the end to our Eucharistic Fast

Following the Government's announcement that churches may open for services from 4th July, Cardinal Nichols has said: "This time of our 'Eucharistic Fast' has made our hearts grow in longing for the moment when we can come together and receive again the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist. That moment is very near and for that we thank God.'

At this time, I await guidance from the Archdiocese about what our next steps at St Benedict's will be so that we can gather as safely as possible when we are able. I will keep you updated as things become clearer.

In the mean while Mass will continue to be live streamed on my Facebook page - Paul Roy Lomas.

If you have any enquiries please do be in touch with Fr. Paul on 01827 736286. Thank you for your continuing support.



Thomas the Apostle, also called Didymus, was one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus according to the New Testament. Thomas is commonly known as "Doubting Thomas" because he doubted Jesus' resurrection when first told of it; later, he confessed his faith, "My Lord and my God," on seeing Jesus' crucifixion wounds. Tradition says that at the dispersal of the Apostles after Pentecost, this saint was sent to evangelize to the Parthians, Medes, and Persians. He ultimately reached India, carrying the Faith to the Malabar coast, which still boasts a large native population calling themselves "Christians of St. Thomas."

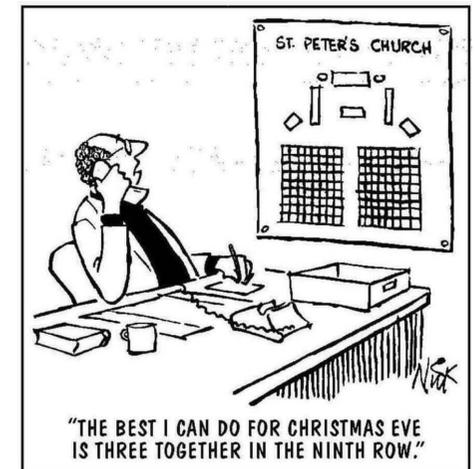
According to tradition, Thomas was killed in an accident when a fowler shot at a peacock and struck Thomas instead. Following his death, some of his relics were taken to Edessa while the rest were kept in what is now known as India. They can still be found within the San Thome Basilica in Chennai, Mylapore, India. The relics taken to Edessa were moved in 1258 to Italy, where they can be found in the Cathedral of St. Thomas the Apostle in Ortona, Italy. However, it is believed that Saint Thomas' skull rests in the Monastery of Saint John the Theologian on the Greek Island Patmos.



PRAYER FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND

May the Communion we share today with the members of our parish family who are at home or in hospital, remind us to live for one another and give them a sense of belonging to our family and to this celebration.

Please don't forget to hand in your Mass requests in an envelope with the name and date on and with your donation inside. Fr. Paul has no outstanding Masses.



Mass each day continues to be shown live on my Facebook page—Paul Roy Lomas. It is also available to use after the Mass has ended in case you can't be on your computer, smart phone or lap-top at the exact time.

Private prayer in the front garden of the presbytery.

As we can't open church safely for private prayer, I'm suggesting the following for those who wish to then meet in the garden with me on the two benches allowing social distancing. This would be on the Friday morning from 10.30 to 11.30 if the weather is dry. A **telephone call to arrange you're coming** will eliminate too many people arriving at once!

Also, I thought we could arrange to say the Rosary together in the garden. Perhaps at 11.30 am on the Friday after the meeting time with me. Being outside is safer than inside. We can sanitize the benches/ chairs and keep gates open to minimise danger. Maintaining social distancing is possible in this situation.

I would also be happy to meet with a parishioner in the garden on the benches at any other time for a chat and maybe Sacrament of Reconciliation. if required. Again please call me on 01827 736286