

The Easter Season

We celebrate the **Easter Season** between Easter Sunday and the day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to his followers (Pentecost Sunday). During that time Jesus appeared many times to his followers, sometimes just to a small number of his closest followers, sometimes just to one person like when he appeared to Mary Magdalen on Easter Sunday morning, sometimes he appeared to hundreds at once. His friends were very often terrified at first but that soon gave way to great joy and happiness when they realised that it really was Jesus.



DOUBTING THOMAS: One story tells of how one disciple named Thomas was not there when Jesus appeared to the other disciples and he wouldn't believe them. He said he would have to see Jesus wounds from the cross for himself before he would be able to believe. The next time Jesus appeared, Thomas was there and Jesus invited him to touch his wounds and not doubt any longer. Thomas' reaction was to say 'My Lord and My God' – he realised then that Jesus was really God. Thomas has become famous and has given us the expression 'Doubting Thomas' which maybe isn't very fair. Do you think you would have been like Thomas or would you have believed the others if they told you that Jesus had come back from the dead? Of course we haven't been as lucky as Thomas – we haven't seen Jesus yet. Jesus said that those who, like us, believe in him without (yet) seeing are very blessed indeed!

