



## Parish of St. Thomas, Apostle & Martyr, Ipswich

Sunday, 1 July 2018

### Feast of St Thomas—Patronal Festival

#### The Collect

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 forever. **Amen**

We welcome **The Revd Cat Connelly** as  
Assistant Curate in our parish.

She was ordained deacon by Bishop Martin yesterday  
at St. Edmundsbury Cathedral.

#### **At the ordination service the Bishop said:**

**Deacons** are called to work with the Bishop and the priests with whom they serve as heralds of Christ's kingdom. They are to proclaim the gospel in word and deed, as agents of God's purposes of love. They are to serve the community in which they are set, bringing to the Church the needs and hopes of all the people. They are to work with their fellow members in searching out the poor and weak, the sick and lonely and those who are oppressed and powerless, reaching into the forgotten corners of the world, that the love of God may be made visible.

**Deacons** share in the pastoral ministry of the Church and in leading God's people in worship. They preach the word and bring the needs of the world before the Church in intercession. They accompany those searching for faith and bring them to baptism. They assist in administering the sacraments; they distribute communion and minister to the sick and housebound.

**Deacons** are to seek nourishment from the Scriptures; they are to study them with God's people, that the whole Church may be equipped to live out the gospel in the world. They are to be faithful in prayer, expectant and watchful for the signs of God's presence, as he reveals his kingdom among us.

Brothers and sisters, it is a great charge that Cat and all who are ordained are ready to undertake. They rely on our prayers.

Therefore, I ask you all:

Will you continually pray for them?

**All We will.**

Will you uphold and encourage them in their ministry?

**All We will.**

#### The first reading: Ephesians 2.19-22

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians*

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

#### The Gospel reading **John 20.24-29**

*Deacon: Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John*

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

*Deacon: This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

#### Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, the source of truth and love,  
Keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread,  
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**