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SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER - YR A

**18TH & 19TH APRIL,
2020**

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSS

The themes for the second Sunday of Easter set the tone for the entire Easter season. They are all directed toward mystagogical instruction, primarily of the neophytes who were baptised during the Easter Vigil, but also of the whole Christian community. The readings for this season provide us an extended meditation on the resurrection and on our own incorporation into it through the mysteries of initiation.



Most of us are like Thomas who looked for some tangible evidence of the resurrection. We do not find it any easier to live by faith than he did. However, when we do live by faith, we actually discover tangible proof. This proof can be seen in the way the community reaches out in care and support to others. Jesus extends his wounded hands

to us as he did to Thomas, and the community is invited to touch his wounds as we touch the wounds of our world. We find a similar situation in the reading from Acts where the fledgling Christian community grew in number as a result of the teaching of the apostles. So it has always been. Those who are not eye witnesses of the actual events are called, through the teaching of others, to witness to the power of the resurrection.

Although the blessings that we derive from the resurrection are clearly gifts from God, they are nonetheless costly gifts. They have been won through the blood of Christ, and we too may have to pay dearly for having received them.

Scriptural context – Not an ending?

The final two verses of today's gospel passage (Jn 20:30-31) read like the conclusion to the whole gospel. They are a statement of finality about the purpose for writing the gospel and something of a blessing for those who read it. Yet, surprisingly, there is another whole chapter that follows this passage that deals with still more post-resurrection appearances. Most scripture scholars believe that the end of Chapter 20 was the original ending of the gospel and that Chapter 21 is a later addition – possibly added by the community for whom the gospel was originally written.

Greg Sunter

WEEKDAY & SUNDAY MASSES

**Masses & Adoration
have been suspended
until further notice.**

**Fr Christopher is privately
celebrating Mass each day
and will continue to pray
for all parishioners.**

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Parish Priest

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Mobile: 0415 505 594

Deacon Owen Rogers
- owen.rogers7@bigpond.com

Mrs Marie Cottee - Parish Secretary
- mc@corpuschristi.org.au

Mrs Sue Weekes - Office Support
- sw@corpuschristi.org.au

Mrs Joanne Hocking - Sacrament
Support

SCHOOLS OF THE PARISH:

Corpus Christi Primary – ph 4726 2200
(Principal - Mrs Sarah O'Rourke)

Xavier College – ph 4777 0900
(Principal - Mr Michael Pate)

The Living Word

Second Sunday of Easter

19 April 2020

First Reading

Acts 2:42-47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The faithful lived together and owned everything in common.

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:2-4. 13-15. 22-24. R. v.1

(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

or

(R.) Alleluia.

1. Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.'
Let the sons of Aaron say:
'His love has no end.' Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.' **(R.)**
2. I was thrust, thrust down and falling but the Lord was my helper.
The Lord is my strength and my song; he was my saviour.
There are shouts of joy and victory in the tents of the just. **(R.)**
3. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.
This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. **(R.)**



Second Reading

1 Pt 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

He has given us a new birth as his children, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead.

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;
happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!
Alleluia!

Gospel

Jn 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with

joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me,
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,
they are forgiven;

for those whose sins you retain,
they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.



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REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Undoubtable Wounds

Thomas was granted the gift of seeing the Risen Lord bearing the wounds of His crucifixion. Thomas was invited to touch them. Responding, he simply cries out: 'My Lord and my God.'

Thomas does not declare his belief in the Resurrection as such. That was all too apparent. Rather, he declares his faith in the *identity* of the risen Jesus Christ: 'My Lord and my God.'

Pope Francis says we can *only* join Thomas in this faith by touching the wounds of Christ. Those wounds are to be found in the body of someone wounded. This can be in a myriad of ways.

We have to bend down and touch those wounds in whatever means of healing is available to us. Otherwise we simply engage in philanthropy at a distance. We end up believing in a semblance of God, but not God embodied in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ always bearing his wounds.

Sometimes we struggle with our faith – after all, it is an astounding claim that Jesus of Nazareth is God embodied for us. You, or any other person intrigued by Jesus, are invited to touch the wounds of Christ and let the patience of God take care of the timing of the response of faith.

We could pause for a moment, praying to be counted amongst those who receive the Blessing promised to those who have not seen the Risen Lord as such, but who touch his wounds and proclaim, 'My Lord and my God.'



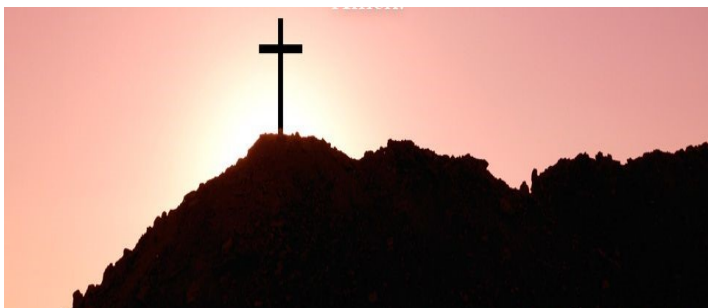
PRAYER FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday of Divine Mercy

*God of faithfulness, help us to embrace our doubts
as part of the journey of faith.*

*When we encounter doubt in others,
allow us to be witnesses to your faithfulness,
waiting patiently with those who feel alone.
May we ask, with Thomas, for what we need,
trusting you will meet our needs in your time.*

Amen



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for April

Freedom from Addiction



We pray that those suffering from addiction
may be helped and accompanied.



REFLECTION FOR ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS

Questions for Adolescents

- * Why were the disciples in hiding at the start of this passage?
- * Why do you think Thomas was reluctant to believe what his friends told him about the Risen Jesus?
- * How might the other disciples have reacted to Thomas' unbelief?
- * Despite his earlier demand, why doesn't Thomas touch the wounds of Jesus?
- * What does Thomas' experience say to 21st Century Christians?
- * How do you respond to disbelief and doubt within yourself or others?

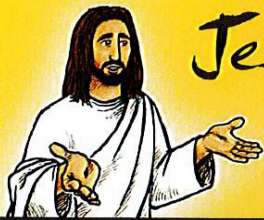
Questions for Adults

- * Which phrase or word from this gospel passage particularly stands out to you? Why?
- * Why does Jesus particularly focus the mission of the disciples on the forgiveness of sins?
- * In what situations do you most need to hear Jesus' words, 'Peace be with you'?
- * In what ways can you relate to Thomas' experience?
- * In what ways does Thomas personify elements of our own culture and society?



***This is an opportunity for parents to
discuss today's Gospel with your children.
The following questions and worksheet
are a beginning point to assist
with the discussion.***

- ♦ In today's gospel what people did Jesus appear to?
- ♦ Where were the disciples?
- ♦ How did they feel when they saw Jesus?
- ♦ Who did not believe it was Jesus?
- ♦ Why did Thomas stop doubting?
- ♦ When can you sense Jesus is with you, even though you do not see him?

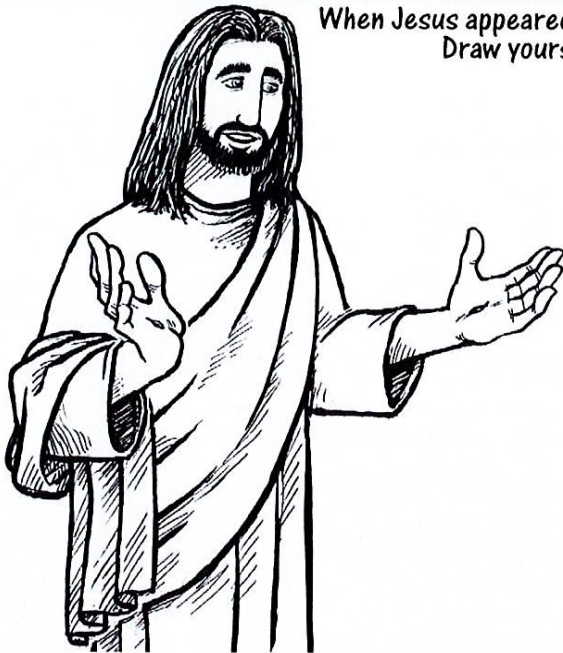


Jesus calls us to have faith



2nd Sunday of Easter, Year A

When Jesus appeared to his disciples they were very happy.
Draw yourself being greeted by Jesus.



What do you think it would feel like to be re-united with a close friend who you didn't think you would ever see again?

There are many things present in our lives that we don't see with our eyes. Circle the words which represent things we do not see.

BIBLE
LOVE
JOY
ALTAR
BREATH
CHALICE
CRUCIFIX
FORGIVENESS
PEACE
FLOWERS
CANDLE
HOPE

Complete the Text maze:

"You are my Lord and my God!"

E	D	R	C	A	S	F	O	START
S	A	O	L	F	W	A	U	Y
D	N	S	Y	M	E	R	E	
M	A	O	L					
Y	G	D	O					
K	O	H	T					
C	D	F	P					

FINISH



**Thank You dear parishioners for your ongoing financial support to the parish.
Your generosity is helping with the ongoing running expenses of our parish.**

During this challenging time of isolation many are struggling to cope.
If you are in need of pastoral support or care please contact Fr Chris on 0415 505 594.

Parish Office Hours

During this time of church closure the Parish Office will remain open. You are welcome to telephone or email. At this stage, our operating hours have not been formalised, so please leave a message if we don't answer the phone and we'll get back to you.

In the case of an emergency please contact Fr Chris on his mobile, 0415 505 594.

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GO FURTHER TOGETHER Or, if you prefer, you can hold on to your Project Compassion boxes until after Easter, at which time the Diocese will advise how the donations can be collected.

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HOLY FAMILY CHURCH	Granville East Parish	Recording and then posting onto Parish YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc-5ODOaRZE0yprZwqatAeA) example - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8ShYXiOoB0
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH	Granville Parish	Recording and then posting onto Parish YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc-5ODOaRZE0yprZwqatAeA) example - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8ShYXiOoB0
ST JOSEPHS CHURCH	Kingswood Parish	Recording/streaming through YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIjip15JI6H8TrHKEB6ISdw/featured
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OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS	Rouse Hill Parish	Streaming through Facebook Live https://www.facebook.com/150713848317487/videos/835921950226114/
OUR LADY OF LOURDES	Seven Hills Parish	Streamed Mass over weekend to Facebook Live https://www.facebook.com/LOL7Hills/videos/206449013914284/
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY	St Marys Parish	Streamed to Facebook https://www.facebook.com/OLRparishstmarys/

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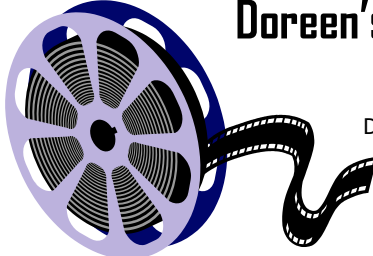
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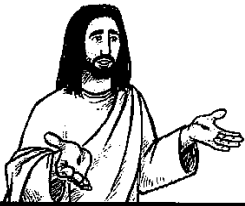
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Solutions to Children's Worksheet



Solutions



2nd Sunday of Easter, Year A

Complete the Text maze:
"You are my Lord and my God!"

START

D R

O Y

A O L

A U

D N Y M E R

M

Y G

O

D

FINISH

